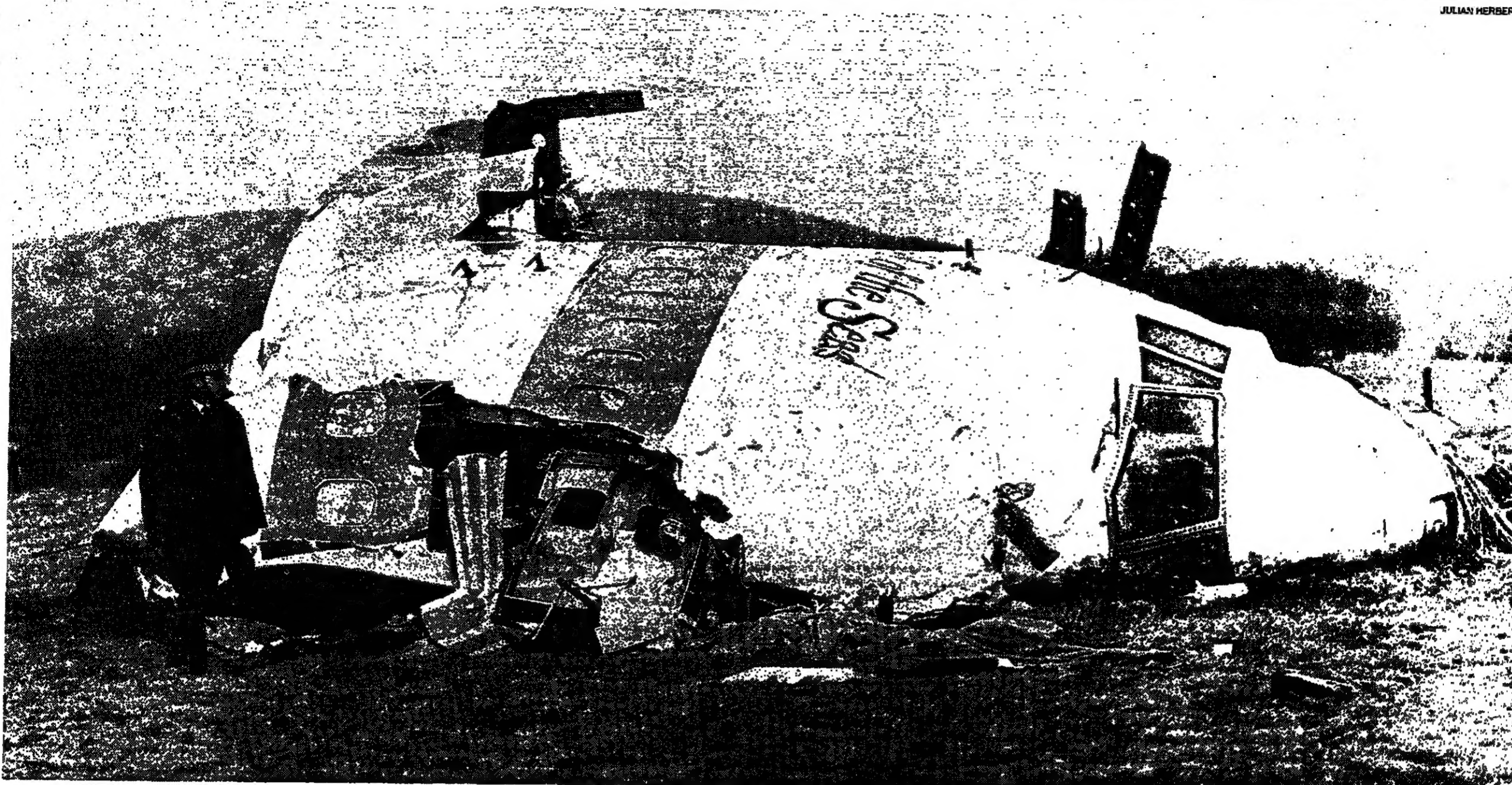




## Terrorist sabotage feared as jet crash death toll reaches 275

# US was warned of bomb threat

JULIAN HERBERT



The wreckage: Lying in a field outside Lockerbie, the cockpit of Pan Am Clipper Maid of the Seas. The flight deck itself, surprisingly intact, will provide investigators with vital clues.

## Embassy bulletin told of terror plan

TO: All Embassy Personnel  
SUBJECT: Threat to Civil Aviation  
Post has been notified by the Federal Aviation Administration that on December 5, 1988, an individual telephoned the U.S. diplomatic facility in Moscow and threatened to blow up a Pan Am aircraft flying over the city of Moscow.

The warning: Section of the letter posted in the US Embassy in Moscow.

By Michael Evans, Stewart Tendler and Robin Oakley

An international dispute was developing last night over two apparently unheeded warnings that a Pan Am plane would be blown up, as the death toll in the Lockerbie air disaster reached 275.

One of them clearly specified that a terrorist plot would involve a flight this month to the United States from Frankfurt, where the doomed Pan Am Flight 103 originated.

Both warnings were phoned to US embassies, and in Moscow warnings were posted on bulletin boards. The Americans claim they told all the necessary security organizations.

However, last night Heathrow and Frankfurt airport officials denied they were ever told.

Although crash investigators have yet to decide what caused the crash, which is now believed to have killed at least 17 people.

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including four children, on the ground as well as all aboard the Boeing 747, the theory was hardening last night that it was a bomb.

The warnings of a bomb plot were separate and specific and referred to an imminent terrorist attack on a Pan American transatlantic flight.

They were passed to the US Government from Israeli intelligence and a Middle Eastern informant, it emerged yesterday.

One of the warnings suggested that an innocent woman passenger would be used to take a bomb on board.

Yesterday a group calling itself the Guard-

ians of the Islamic Revolution claimed they had brought down the aircraft in revenge for the US Navy attack on an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf in the summer when 290 people were killed.

In Washington, it was revealed that the US ambassador to Lebanon had intended to be on the flight, but had been delayed in Nicosia.

Investigators from the US National Transportation Safety Board working at Lockerbie reported back to the White House yesterday that all three communications radios on Pan Am Flight 103 and the plane's two transponders went dead at exactly the same second. They said this signalled an instantaneous and total loss of power to the cockpit, which was due to an "explosive decompression".

The officials said this decompression could have been caused by structural failure, but it was also what would occur as a result of a bomb explosion.

As terrorist explosives experts from the Ministry of Defence began examining the wreckage, Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch started a check of the passenger list. Senior police sources said they were convinced it was a bomb and emphasized that it would only take a small device in the right place to destroy the aircraft, especially if the Semtex plastic explosive was used.

It is believed that, as the Pan Am flight took off from Heathrow 25 minutes late, the bomb was planned to explode over the Atlantic, leaving little or no wreckage from which to pinpoint the cause of the crash.

Last night there was considerable confusion over what steps were taken and who had been directly informed after the warnings of a terrorist attack.

In Washington, Mr Ronald Spiers, an under-secretary of state, said the US Embassy in Helsinki, Finland, had received a telephone threat two-and-a-half weeks ago. A man with a Middle Eastern accent described how a Pan Am airliner flying from Frankfurt



The crater: Aerial view of the 30-foot deep hole gouged by the jumbo through the town.

to the US via Heathrow would be the target of a bomb attack.

The informant who claimed to belong to the financial Palestinian Abu Nidal terrorist organization, said that a woman would take the bomb on board the plane.

Mr Spiers said US embassies, the Federal Aviation Authority and American airlines were notified of the threat.

In a separate warning, Mossad, the Israeli secret intelligence service, also tipped off the US Embassy in Bonn that an attack was likely. Pan Am said in New York that it had received notification from "various sources"

that there was the possibility of a threat against an airline in New York. A spokeswoman said: "We immediately acted and put supplementary security procedures in effect, not only at Frankfurt but at airports around the world."

However, in Frankfurt, Herr Harald Kosei, chief spokesman for Pan Am, said: "I know of no warning about an attack on one of our aircraft, nor do I know if the US embassy alert was passed to our company. I have also checked today with the Frankfurt airport director, who also had no knowledge of any such warning."

## Search for groups with hate motive

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

One of the problems facing security chiefs in the wake of the Pan Am crash is that many different terror groups could have had motives for wanting to destroy the aircraft.

Although sabotage remained unproven yesterday, security services were already assessing which groups were most likely to be implicated.

The most likely culprit was thought to be the Abu Nidal organization, a radical Palestinian faction which broke away from the PLO. A man

who telephoned the American Embassy in Helsinki on December 5, saying that a bomb would be placed on a Pan Am plane by a woman, claimed he belonged to Abu Nidal.

The security services discounted early suggestions that Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, might have been involved. These were based on a claim by Mr Yasser Abdel-Rabbo, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation

Continued on page 29, col 4

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## THE habitat SALE

## Microscopic clues that may yield vital secrets

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

A tiny dent in a fragment of metal could prove conclusively whether the Pan Am jumbo jet which crashed in Scotland was the victim of a terrorist bomb.

Investigators from the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch are already examining pieces of the wreckage under microscopes - and measuring

the depth of every indentation. If they discover that the metal has been compressed by a tiny object travelling at the speed of 24,000 ft per second they will begin to give scientific credibility to the strong circumstantial evidence which now indicates that PA 103 was blown apart by a bomb smuggled aboard in luggage stowed in the aircraft's hold. Long years of patient research have proved that, if a bomb is detonated in the cabin of an

aircraft, fragments smash into their surroundings at a speed at least ten times that at which they would do so if the jet broke up in mid-air and the internal pressure escaped. They will also be looking for minute traces of burns or of the explosive itself in the backs of seats and the bodies of the victims.

The bright orange "black box" flight and voice recorders have been recovered from the crash site and

immediately after Christmas the tapes will be removed from their crash-proof housing and played time and again. A computer will then make a "fingerprint" of the noise inside the cabin. If the "fingerprint" matches that of known bombings then this, too, will help to turn the theory of a bomb into fact. They will also interview every available witness to try to build up a detailed picture of how the aircraft broke up and study

every item of the wreckage to establish a sequence of events. A bomb seems to be the most likely explanation. The accident is virtually a carbon copy of that which destroyed an Air India jet off Ireland. That aircraft vanished from radar screens at exactly the same height as PA 103. An Indian inquiry said the accident had been caused by a bomb, though no firm evidence could be found to prove that one had been on board.

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## THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

# Sabotage theory mounts among MPs

JAMES GRAY

## Bomb aboard or structural defect feared

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, gave details of the Pan Am Flight 103 disaster to a hushed House of Commons yesterday as the belief grew among politicians that sabotage was the most likely cause of the crash.

Though Mr Channon and Mr John Prescott, the Opposition spokesman, who called the disaster a "nightmare come true", agreed that it would be wrong to speculate so soon on the reasons for the greatest disaster in British aviation history, MPs rapidly made plain their suspicions that a bomb had been planted.

News that the two flight recorders had been found was passed to Mr Channon while he was making his statement. But he had already told MPs that the last contact with the pilot, two minutes before the disaster, was a routine one and that the radar return from the aircraft had split into several pieces at the plane's last known position. Wreckage had been spread over a 10-mile swath.

Most MPs believed that the clear implication was either that one of the safest aircraft in the world had suffered a sudden and total structural failure or that, far more likely, there had been an explosion on board.

Mr Channon, who has indicated that a preliminary report on the causes of the disaster will be published in two to three weeks, confirmed that there was no indication of any other aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

At the later press conference he said that the plane had "simply disappeared from the radar screen" and acknowledged that it was "virtually certain there would be no survivors".

Mr Channon refused to comment later on reports that American embassies had been warned that a bomb would be planted on a Pan Am flight and he denied that any special alert had been in force in recent days. He described stories of reports emanating from Moscow about a bomb threat to a US plane as "speculation at this stage".

He refused to comment on claims of sabotage by a Middle Eastern terrorist group, but promised that if any steps needed to be taken to stiffen security or safety measures they would be taken rapidly.

Mr Channon said: "The security record at Heathrow and Gatwick has been extremely good. There is no evidence that it has failed on this occasion".

In the Commons and at a later press conference Mr Channon was closely questioned by MPs on whether passengers would have been able to board the flight at Frankfurt and then leave at Heathrow while their baggage was transferred to the separate plane continuing the flight to New York.

Mr Channon said that it should not be possible for that to happen but refused to be definitive.

Department of Transport officials said that rules specified that "baggage reconciliation" procedures should be adopted if pilots found themselves with fewer passengers for a continuing leg of a flight than they should have; the remaining passengers should have to identify their luggage and any bags found without an owner still travelling should be removed.

In his responses to questions Mr Channon said that his department had been trying to get more telephone lines installed at Heathrow for people seeking to inquire about friends or relatives who may have been on the flight after complaints from MPs that the existing lines had been permanently engaged.

But he defended the authorities' refusal to release the full passenger list in the early hours after the tragedy, saying that it was a difficult balance to achieve. Many alterations were made at the last minute, the flight had not been full and he could understand the reluctance.

When Mr David Steel, Democrat MP, pressed for low-lying RAF exercises in the area of the crash to be suspended over the Christmas period, Mr Channon promised to pass on the request to the Ministry of Defence.

He also promised a speedy response to MPs who pressed for rapid financial and other help to the people of Lockerbie and surrounding areas.

Mr Channon was less sympathetic, however, to a suggestion that international flights should be re-routed over the sea rather than flying for as long as the Pan Am flight had done over land.



A wardrobe stands undisturbed amid the devastation of Lockerbie. The wreckage of these houses spilled on to the A74 and into the gardens of neighbouring houses.

### How the bombers can beat security

## Police begin the checks on passengers

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

As the possibility of sabotage grew yesterday, Scotland Yard announced that Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist branch, would coordinate London police investigations.

First task for the police is to check the backgrounds of all passengers with American and West German agencies.

In recent years, West Germany has been a prime area for Arab terrorist attacks on American targets, culminating in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque.

One of the men later held for bomb attacks was a relative of Nezar Hindawi, who tried to blow up an El Al aircraft bound from London two years ago.

The Hindawi device, produced by his Syrian allies,

showed how it is possible to get a explosive past the security screening and on to an aircraft. He planted the bomb in the luggage of his pregnant Irish girl friend, but it was found by a suspicious El Al security man.

The bag passed through the X-ray machine but the Israeli and police found 3lbs of Semtex, a Czech-made military high explosive, taped to the base in a double lining.

The explosive would have been set off by a timer and detonator built into a calculator placed in the bag by Hindawi.

Hindawi's plan would have succeeded but for the high security consciousness of the Israeli airline.

Bombs can be concealed in the hand luggage of unwitting

passengers in a transit lounge or put on board an aircraft among duty free goods.

One important area for police will be to trace passengers who only flew from Frankfurt to London and did not continue the flight. Such passengers might have left luggage behind which was transferred on to the flight to New York. Did the airline page a missing passenger in the period before take-off?

Did someone pass through the immigration channels at Heathrow from the flight and then vanish?

Police are also likely to try and check on anyone who joined the flight at Frankfurt or London after arriving from the Middle East or the Mediterranean area. Special Branch and immigration records at

Heathrow will be checked for anyone who might in retrospect raise suspicions.

Police are also likely to explore the state of security checks at Heathrow for embarking passengers, checks on their luggage and the routine for moving luggage from the Frankfurt flight to the New York-bound aircraft.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Heathrow Airport said there were no irregularities or anomalies in airport security for the flight.

Baggage checks were carried out by the airline while passengers and their hand luggage were screened. The spokesman said the airport authorities had received no warnings from Pan Am of any threat.

Heathrow and Frankfurt are rated among the world's most

secure airports, but security experts accept that the weak link in the system is the sheer volume of unscreened luggage checked into aircraft holds. It is almost impossible to search every suitcase and the assumption remains that a passenger travelling in the same aircraft as his luggage is unlikely to blow himself up.

Luggage on Pan Am flight 103 might have been checked in at Frankfurt and put on to the New York flight at Heathrow without being seen by its owner. It is unlikely that it would have been examined at any stage.

At Heathrow yesterday, it was a different story. Travellers faced increased hand-baggage checks, with particular emphasis on transatlantic flights.

## Terrorist likely to have died in crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The terrorist who may have smuggled a bomb on board the Pan Am jumbo must have been, in his terms, incredibly lucky and probably a martyr to his cause.

Passenger luggage is stowed either in the front baggage hold or in the rear cargo hold almost on a random basis.

Had a bag been put inside a metal container and housed in the rear cargo compartment of the jet it is unlikely that it would have so damaged the aircraft that the pilot was unable to give an indication of trouble.

The rear cargo compartment of the jet which crashed was strengthened in September last year as part of a modification to make the 747 capable of being used by the military in time of war.

A giant new door was added which could have been used to load freight. The floor was also strengthened to take the additional weight and this added further protection to the 135 miles of wiring, cables and hydraulic lines in the fuselage.

If, however, it had been placed in the front cargo compartment it would not have had the same protection and would have been only a few feet from the main electronic bay where the aircraft's essential computers and electronics are housed. An explosion there would have disabled the aircraft immediately.

But to get a suitcase into either hold the terrorist would have had to be on board. Pan Am, like most airlines, now insists that each item of luggage is "reconciled" with a passenger.

Had the terrorist checked in the bomb at Frankfurt it would have been subjected to electronic scrutiny which should have picked it up. But even the most rigorous check can fail and airlines now insist that each item of baggage must respond to a label on the ticket both at the boarding airport and at any transit stop.

## Thatcher extends sympathy

By Kerry Gill

Mrs Margaret Thatcher spent several harrowing hours visiting the sites where wreckage of the Boeing 747 now lies. She later emerged from the local police station looking grim faced to say: "It is beyond one's expectations. It is almost beyond one's imagination or comprehension."

Clearly moved by the horrific sights of the crash and bodies constantly being ferried in by helicopters, she added: "You have to see it to realize how bad it is. I would like to say to our American friends that the bodies are being dealt with with the greatest possible dignity, care and sensitivity."

Mrs Thatcher said she had sent a message of sympathy to President Reagan before leaving for Scotland yesterday morning. "It is not only terrible for the people of this town and for Scotland, but for United States citizens as most of the people on board are their people."

Asked if it had been com-



Mrs Thatcher is shown the site where part of the jet's fuselage left a 20-ft crater next to the A74 Carlisle to Glasgow road.

firm that the plane's destruction had been caused by an explosion, she said: "They are looking for evidence, and we must really wait".

She said the disaster had been a traumatic experience and rescuers and investigators were as anxious as anyone to find out what had happened.

"I can only say that it is even worse in daylight than it

appeared on television at night. You can see the full enormity of the damage and the way in which pieces of aircraft and twisted metal were scattered over a wide area. It is just terrible."

Mrs Thatcher said she had gone to the site where the Boeing's cockpit section lies on a grassy knoll barely 100

yards from a church. "As you can imagine it was a grief-stricken experience. I am enormously impressed with the work of the emergency services. They are not short of expert help of any kind."

Mrs Thatcher added that there were 600 people involved in going through fields searching for and retrieving bodies.

Mr John Jameson, chief executive of Dumfries and Galloway council, earlier said rooms had been set up at the local school for those evacuated from their homes.

He said the back-up services had done a particularly good job. "We didn't really appreciate the extent of the disaster until first light."

## Duke of York sees devastated town

The Duke of York saw for himself the devastation in Lockerbie yesterday and said: "What I have seen will leave a lasting impression".

After spending an hour touring the area and meeting townspeople, he said he felt sad for Lockerbie, but even more distressed for the American families who had lost relatives. He had earlier called the disaster "horrifying".

The Duke, wearing naval uniform, said: "I've been particularly impressed by the emergency teams. Dumfries and Galloway has had a tough time in the last 24 hours and the emergency services have been particularly valuable."

He said teams of troops were working through the wreckage and he saw RAF search and rescue teams and helicopters at work.

The Duke said he had spoken to people who saw the ball of flame engulf the town. "They were all extremely stunned".

Although he said he had spoken to some of the investigators, he refused to speculate on the cause of the crash. "A

lot of work is still to be done and I'm not going to speculate; that's a matter for them."

The Duke spoke to some people who live behind the town's police station, where part of the plane's fuselage crashed into a house.

"I was told by one resident how they managed to get an elderly lady out of her kitchen where she was trapped, with her two dogs."

The Duke, a Navy helicopter pilot, said such disasters did not put him off flying. "There is an element of risk in all flying and if you allow yourself to worry you would not do it."

After arriving in Lockerbie by car from Rosyth, where he was on his ship, HMS Edinburgh, the Duke visited the police station and the military co-ordination centre at Lockerbie Academy.

As he left to visit disaster scenes, he spoke to Mr Charles Price, the US Ambassador, who said: "He expressed his great feeling of sorrow and sadness over the devastation that had taken place and the loss of life."

## Different kind of dying puts Lockerbie in year's litany of tragedy

By Brian James

Amid the speeding police and rescue teams, the TV crews and the VIPs, just one vehicle moved slowly up Lockerbie High Street yesterday. A hearse. As it carried a resident to the cemetery, elderly men raised their hats and a PC saluted; for until yesterday that was the sort of dying that Lockerbie was used to.

The people of this grey little town, before Wednesday a mere flick of the eyes for people in cars speeding to Glasgow on the A74 but now qualified to stand beside Leninakan in the litany of the year's tragedies, seemed sucked in upon themselves. They scarcely glanced up at the swarming helicopters, and certainly looked no higher to the

contrails in the blue sky. Conversation consisted of a few whispers and many shaking heads. Amid nightmare, normality was something to cling to, if necessary, create.

Between two houses where gangs were patching torn roofs, a man dug himself an ornamental pond. In those streets less badly affected, pieces of the appalling steel debris that a jumbo had become, was placed in neat piles by the kerb.

As usual when madmen or malicious nature decide to celebrate Christmas by taking the lives of the innocent, it was the fairy lights and the tinsel that brought the tears.

Lockerbie's town hall, over which the wreckage of PA 103 flew in flaming pieces on its way to kill 17 of the town's

residents as well as all of those who had been on board, is a grey street's one concession to frivolity. It boasts turrets like a Swiss castle. And at this time of year it also brandishes the civic Christmas tree and twinkling lights. Until yesterday, when someone went in and turned off the twinkle because the town hall had become a temporary morgue.

Beside its doors parish notices crowd. "Dog minder wanted", "Bike for sale". Yesterday they made room on the board for four lists of those who had survived the fire in the worst-hit streets; handwritten additions had been made: "Family all okay - gone to mother's".

They led one small lady through the crowd. "See there, then, it says so... she's all right." She read the name slowly

and glanced up at the Christmas tree with a little half-gesture "at a time like this", and then the tears flooded. At a time like this.

That's what they were saying to each other, too, in the long lines of little black figures combing the green hills to the west where the plane had begun to fall apart. The searching had been going on since daylight. Even so there were far too many moments when they had to plant another pole with a white flag and send for a blanket to cover a body. Clothing, wrapped presents, items of an airline meal - all were noted, marked down or collected, the gay detritus of people flying across the world to celebrate a time of goodwill.

Knowing the force of the impact, seen

in the evidence of the blackened ruins on the fringes of the town and spasmodically in its centre, Lockerbie watched with grey faces as platoons of Highland infantry carrying entrenching tools filed silently up the high street to begin climbing the hills. No one wanted to give words to what might face them for, as an official had put it, "discovery is finished... recovery has begun".

But at least they were professionals. John Rennie who farms up at the top of the hill of the Tundergarth Road had no training for his worst hour. He had been training for rugby when the bang sent him racing home. He took a flashlight and went into the darkness of his paddock where he found 21 bodies.

"It wrecked me. I felt so helpless.

There was nothing to be done for any of them. But one was just a kid. Just 20. I picked up his ID card for the police. He was so pathetic sprawled up against my fence."

"He was going home to his parents and I suppose..."

The hills to the west where the plane began to break up, the golf course on which it left 60 bodies, these had all remained sealed from dawn, partly because investigators need to work undisturbed, partly because the horror needed to be decently shielded.

Up there is where the people of Lockerbie take their Sunday walks, walks that will never be the same again now that they have had demonstrated to them a very different way of dying.



## THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

## The final resting place of Flight 103

JULIAN HERBERT



In the shadow of the graveyard at Lockerbie, the flight deck of Pan Am's PA 103 lies almost undamaged, belying the violent and sudden end of its journey to New York nearly two days ago. It may hold the answer to the cause of the airliner's crash — whether it sheared off because of the age of the jumbo jet, because of an explosion, or whether it broke on impact with the ground and hurtled into the field to come to rest beside the gravestones.

## Young lovers were among crash victims

An engaged couple, flying to New York on a Christmas shopping spree, were among the 258 people killed on board Pan Am's flight 103 at Lockerbie.

Mr Clayton Flick, aged 25, wanted to make a grand romantic gesture by buying his fiancée, Miss Claire Bacciochi, her Christmas presents in New York.

Mr Flick, from Brandon, Coventry, and Miss Bacciochi, aged 19, a hairdresser from Tamworth, Staffordshire, planned to marry in the new year.

He booked the flight at the last moment and travelled with his fiancée to Heathrow on Wednesday. They planned to return from New York on Christmas morning to have dinner with her parents.

Flora Swire, aged 22, another of the victims, bought a standby ticket for the flight from Heathrow to New York. She was due to meet her boy friend there, who would have driven her to Boston, where she was planning to stay with friends for the Christmas holiday.

Friends and staff at Nottingham University, where she was studying for a PhD in neuro-physiology, described her as "an unusually bright and exceptionally able student".

Mr Rajesh Ramesh, aged 33, of Eastfield Court, Leicester, was planning a new life in the United States with relatives who live in New York.

He had worked as a computer operator for British Shoes for 10 years.

Mr Ben Gamadia, a close friend in Leicester, said yesterday: "He was emigrating, so we went out to have a farewell meal on Tuesday."

Mr Bernie McLaughlin, a computer sales director, caught the doomed flight with only minutes to spare. He left his Bristol office at 3.45pm on Wednesday, giving him about two hours to beat the rush hour, travel 130 miles to Heathrow and check in. Had the 6pm flight not been delayed 25 minutes, he might not have boarded. He was on his way to family in America when the plane crashed.

Mr Bill Cadman, aged 32, a sound engineer, lived and worked in London, where he was well-known in the pop music world. He organized the sound systems for the opening of the Tate Gallery at the Albert Dock and had also worked with the pop group Pink Floyd.

Mr David Trimmer-Smith, aged 50, vice-president of the Oxford University Press in the United States, was flying back to New York after a sales conference in Oxford. He would have spent Christmas

with his wife, whom he married only a month ago.

Dr Mridula Shastri, aged 24, a Rhodes scholar at St John's College, Oxford, was travelling to New York to visit her fiancé.

Mr Julian Benellow, aged 25, was a postgraduate student at King's College, Cambridge, working in the department of experimental psychology. A classics graduate from Yale University, he wanted to spend Christmas in Italy, but changed his mind at the last moment to fly home to New York.

Thirty-seven students from Syracuse University, New York State, were on the Pan Am flight, returning home after a term spent at the university's London base in Kensington.

Syracuse brings 250 students to London each year to pursue the British and European aspects of their courses. Those killed at Lockerbie were all in their early twenties, studying a wide range of arts and science courses. The university was in mourning yesterday.

One of the families hardest hit by the disaster were the Mulroys of New York. Mr John Mulroy, aged 59, director of communications for the Associated Press news agency, was flying home after a business trip with five members of his family, including his son, Sean, and his daughter-in-law, Ingrid.

Mr Frank Ciulla, aged 45, vice-president of the Chase Manhattan Bank in London, was returning home to be with his family at Christmas. A colleague said it was an extremely sad time for the bank. Two employees were lost in the Clapham Junction rail crash last week.

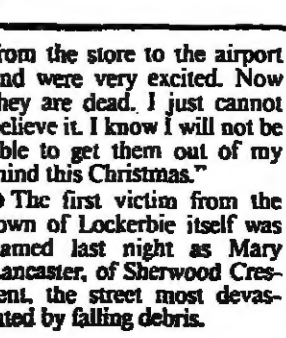
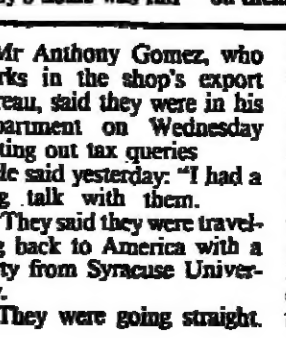
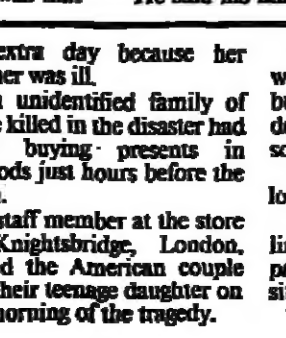
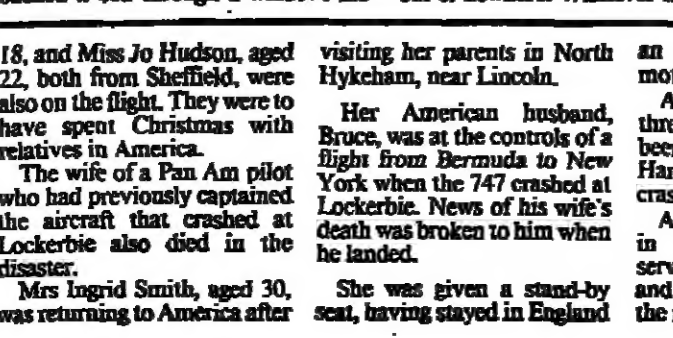
Two senior executives of Volkswagen America were also on board PA 103. Mr James Fuller and Mr Lou Marengo flew from Frankfurt to Heathrow aboard the Pan Am feeder flight after three days of business meetings at Volkswagen's headquarters at Wolfsburg.

Mr Fuller, aged 50, married with two children, was vice-president of Volkswagen's American operation. Mr Marengo, married with three children, was director of marketing.

Miss Melina Hudson, aged 16, the first American pupil at Exeter School, where she spent a term studying English, drama, Spanish and mathematics, was flying home to her parents in New York.

Miss Elizabeth Ivell, a teenager from Robertsbridge, East Sussex, was travelling to spend Christmas with friends in New York. Her mother, Katrina, was due to join her yesterday.

Miss Tracey Corner, aged



## Townfolk say it was 'raining flames'

By David Sapsted

One youth thought it was the start of a nuclear holocaust and then dashed through the burning part of the town to find his parents. A passing driver remembered how he had outrun "an umbrella of flame".

And a widow recalled the horror of the burning plane passing over her home... and how, two hours later, she joined other evacuees to play bingo in the town centre.

Such were the memories yesterday of some of the 3,000 inhabitants of Lockerbie of the night PA 103 crashed, killing it is believed 275 people.

"It seemed to rain flame", Mr Bob Carnochan, aged 50, a coach company owner, said. He was driving along the A74 when he heard a "terrible noise... the combination of an explosion and a roar".

"Pieces of concrete started to rain down and bits of metal. The debris came crashing down on my Honda and the windscreen smashed, then a large piece of concrete smashed through the sunroof and landed on the seat next to me. I even found a rivet embedded in the panel."

Mr Robert MacTaggart, aged 17, a waiter, said he thought Lockerbie had been hit by a nuclear bomb when the aircraft crashed.

"I was working at the Somerton Hotel when I heard this rumbling sound outside. The curtains started shaking in the room and then suddenly it all lit up outside — like you'd expect a nuclear explosion to be."

"At that stage I thought it might be some sort of bomb but then I saw that the street outside the hotel was full of debris — huge bits of metal with bolts in them."

"I realized it must have been a plane: nothing else could have left stuff like that. I immediately thought about my parents — I knew they'd been shopping in town at the time."

"So I ran through the town looking for them and anyone else I knew to see if they were all right. Everyone else seemed to be doing the same. There were a lot of people rushing about and a lot of confusion."

His story had a happy ending, however, when he was reunited later with his parents at the family home, which suffered only superficial damage.

Mrs Jessie McKay, aged 74, described "an awful whooshing sound, like a gale" as the doomed aircraft passed over her house alongside the A74. "How it missed our roof I don't know."

But two hours later Mrs McKay was playing bingo with others. "It was the only thing we could think of to do. Everyone was so numbed and confused", she said.

## 'Frightening wind' sucked bed through window

By Ian Smith

A youth aged 17 described yesterday how he was wounded by a silver of aircraft metal as the "fireball" hit Lockerbie.

Ian Hamilton, waiting to be discharged from Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary after being treated for superficial head wounds, also spoke of the "frighteningly powerful wind" which had ripped through his family home in Sherwood Crescent and sucked a bed through a window. He

said: "I was walking near the filling station with my elder brother George when the world seemed to explode. Suddenly I saw a ball of fire appear over the top of the garage."

"There was an explosion and wreckage started falling down. I started to run away while George squeezed tight against the wall for protection. I saw bits of metal flying through the air at incredible speed."

"The hail of metal seemed to come out of nowhere. Whatever it was that

exploded did not hit the filling station. It seemed to be behind the garage and that almost certainly saved our lives."

"It was not until we thought we were safe to move and ran towards our house that a neighbour stopped me and pointed to the blood pouring down my face. Until then I did not even know I had been wounded, whether it was shock or my over-riding concern about what was taking place, I just do not know."

He said his family's home was full

of wreckage. "I don't know what miracle saved my parents but they told me of the whirlwind which had carried a bed out of a third floor window and sent it tumbling onto the pavement."

"Mum said that at one point she thought the chimney was on fire and both she and dad were clearly frightened out of their wits."

"Windows were blown out of the house and at one stage my parents were convinced the walls would fall on them."

18, and Miss Jo Hudson, aged 22, both from Sheffield, were also on the flight. They were to have spent Christmas with relatives in America.

The wife of a Pan Am pilot who had previously captained the aircraft that crashed at Lockerbie also died in the disaster.

Mrs Ingrid Smith, aged 30, was returning to America after

visiting her parents in North Hykeham, near Lincoln.

Her American husband, Bruce, was at the controls of a flight from Bermuda to New York when the 747 crashed at Lockerbie. News of his wife's death was broken to him when he landed.

She was given a stand-by seat, having stayed in England

an extra day because her mother was ill.

An unidentified family of three killed in the disaster had been buying presents in Harrods just hours before the crash.

A staff member at the store in Knightsbridge, London, served the American couple and their teenage daughter on the morning of the tragedy.

Mr Anthony Gomez, who works in the shop's export bureau, said they were in his department on Wednesday sorting out tax queries.

He said yesterday: "I had a long talk with them."

"They said they were travelling back to America with a party from Syracuse University. They were going straight

from the store to the airport and were very excited. Now they are dead. I just cannot believe it. I know I will not be able to get them out of my mind this Christmas."

The first victim from the town of Lockerbie itself was named last night as Mary Lancaster, of Sherwood Crescent, the street most devastated by falling debris.



December 22 1988

## PARLIAMENT

# Channon pledges early report on Lockerbie crash

The inquiry into the Pan Am disaster at Lockerbie would be conducted with urgency and an initial bulletin on the facts would be published soon, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, told a sombre House of Commons.

A full report would be published as soon as possible.

A team from his department's Air Accident Investigation Branch had arrived at Lockerbie just after midnight and had already begun its work, he said in a statement on the tragedy.

During questions, Mr Channon said that both of the aircraft's flight recorders had been recovered.

MPs' asked in sympathy for the victims and their families and praise for the rescue and emergency services.

They also agreed that it would be premature and wrong to speculate on the causes, but several expressed concern over the possibility that a bomb might have been placed on the jumbo.

There were appeals for speedy and generous compensation for the stricken community of Lockerbie. Mr Channon said that the Government would contribute to the fund that had been set up locally. He would like to see the problem of compensation resolved as speedily as possible.

In his statement at 11am, Mr Channon said that when the aircraft was 20 miles north-west of Lockerbie and two minutes after the last radio contact, the air traffic controller at Prestwick had seen the disappearance from his screen of the aircraft's surveillance radar response, which identifies the aircraft.

The primary radar return from the aircraft then split into several returns around the last known position. He had been assured by the Civil Aviation Authority that the Scottish Air Traffic Control Centre had no indication of any other aircraft in the vicinity at the time.

Wreckage of the aircraft had come down in a swath of 10 miles or more and large parts fell on Lockerbie causing the destruction of houses, a petrol station and cars on the A74 and

much further damage from fire. "It is of course too soon to draw any conclusions about the cause of this terrible disaster."

Representatives of the US Government and the manufacturer were being invited to assist his department's investigation team in accordance with international practice.

The inquiry would be conducted with all the urgency appropriate to an event of this kind. A full report would be published as soon as possible and an initial bulletin setting out the facts revealed in the first stage of the investigation would be published shortly.

"The House will wish to join me in an expression of deep grief at this tragedy."

"It is already clear that the

## MPs' recess

Both Houses of Parliament rose for the Christmas recess. The Commons will return on Tuesday, January 10, and the Lords on Monday, January 16.

The main business in the Commons when MPs return is expected to be:

Jan 10: Social Security Bill, second reading. Motion relating to cold weather payments for the elderly.

Jan 11: Employment Bill, second reading.

Jan 12: Debate on the Chancellor's autumn statement.

Jan 13: Debate on Aids.

loss of life is greater than in any air accident that has previously taken place in the United Kingdom and as yet we have little indication of the extent of the losses among the people of the Lockerbie area.

"May I also express on behalf of the Government our deepest sympathy with the American people and our great admiration of the emergency services, which served us so well last night."

Search-and-rescue and support helicopters, aircraft and ground-based teams had been involved as well as ground support medical and search teams from service units all over the country.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport last night at Lockerbie, we saw a nightmare come

true and all of us feel a deep sense of shock.

He said that their thoughts were with the people there and those in this country, the US and other countries who had lost their loved ones.

Yet again, the House and country paid tribute to the professionalism, dedication and heroism of the emergency services and to the courage of ordinary people who attempted to join in the rescue.

"In the few remaining days of 1988 and only nine days after the Clapham rail disaster, this horrific aviation tragedy makes December 1988 one of our worst months for deaths in the passenger transport industry."

Mr Channon had the full support of the Opposition in ensuring, in the course of investigation, that any lessons learnt were acted upon straight away.

Mr David Steel (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, Dumfries and Galloway, Scot) said that this area was used for the low-flying exercises and, although there was no connection between such flights and the crash, people's feelings would inevitably be heightened by it. Could the Ministry of Defence suspend such flights over the Christmas and New Year holidays?

Mr Channon said that he would draw the request to the attention of Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence.

Mr Brian Wilson (Cunningham North, Lab) said that Lockerbie would endure a prolonged aftermath of human suffering, psychological trauma and physical damage. Could the Government give an assurance that it would meet these needs and pay attention to the sensibilities of the people?

He paid personal tribute to the local MP, Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C), whose anguish last night was the mark of a man who is truly part of the community he represents.

Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) asked for confirmation that security at Heathrow and Gatwick was high.

Mr Channon said that security at the two airports was among the best in the world. If more needed to be done, it would be done.



A grim Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, at the crash scene yesterday

## Christmas adjournment debate

# Economic League attacked

The Economic League, which supplies information on potential recruits to employers, was a pernicious, insidious, modern-McCarthyite body, Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) said during a Christmas adjournment debate.

It haunted the shadows of industrial relations and caused damage to the reputations of innocent people.

Replying to a request by Mr Janner for an investigation of the league, Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said: I will consider what he says about an independent inquiry and convey the conclusions of those deliberations to him in due course.

Mr Janner had said that the provision of information on potential employees should not be left to secret, shadowy

organizations, which hoarded information that could not be examined by an independent body.

The league was known to be the key organization in the provision of such information, but an important former official had described its central register as "chaotic and more fiction than fact".

Did the reputable organizations which made use of the league know that if they were made aware, would they waste their shareholders' money in seeking information?

Mr Lee said that it was for employers to decide how to recruit employees and they should have complete freedom to do so. Too many restrictions would be a burden on businesses.

He denied suggestions that

the Employment Service might have made use of the Economic League or any similar body.

The league had set itself up as a provider of information and there was nothing unlawful about that, nor was there in employers choosing to use such information to reach recruitment decisions.

"That does not mean that there are not restrictions on the activities of such companies."

"Those who provide such information bear a heavy responsibility to ensure that the information they supply is accurate, and those who use it should satisfy themselves as to the quality and accuracy of the information by asking a second opinion from a reliable source."

New legislation was neither necessary nor desirable.

## Political sketch

# Sad contrast in a distracted House

The House met, Sir Philip Goodhart reminded us, under a shadow. He meant the air crash at Lockerbie, on which a statement from the Transport Secretary was promised for 11am.

First, though, on this last parliamentary morning before Christmas, Sir Philip had called a debate on the plight of Vietnamese refugees.

Why did that seem a trivial distraction from Lockerbie? By the end of his speech, Sir Philip made one ashamed to have felt so.

He stared unhappily around him at an almost entirely empty chamber. Even the journalists looked inattentive.

Sir Philip did not minimize the horror of Lockerbie. Gently, though, he pointed out that perhaps 300 have been killed there; while more than 30,000 had been killed, or drowned, trying to flee Vietnam. Sad, he reflected, that slow tragedies never attract the interest of sudden ones.

It was strictly according to custom that Mr Speaker left, here, for a deputy to take over. But it was an unlucky coincidence.

Sir Philip described conditions in camps in Hong Kong for those who escaped alive.

His halting manner seemed unmatched to the force of his argument. Nobody in Government, he said, was individually evil. Officials in Hong Kong tried to be kind. He knew the Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) to be a man without cruelty. The junior minister, Tim Eggar, was a generous minister.

Yet the foreign policy for which these men were collectively responsible, was wicked. One of the two backbenchers who had wandered in, wandered out.

Britain accepted 20 refugees a month, Sir Philip concluded. Though hardly the solution, could we not take a handful more?

And would the minister promise we would not forcibly repatriate refugees to who knows what murderous reception from the country they had fled? Would the minister renounce a policy of "detention and repatriation of people who have already suffered so much?"

The Principal Doorkeeper, all in black and tailcoated like a slender beetle, buzzed in mut-

fied conversation at the Bar of the House with the best-looking Assistant Sergeant at Arms. Perhaps it was about the plight of the refugees.

Roger Sims spoke in support. Then came Mr Eggar's reply. It was polished, dignified, Foreign Office drafts to explain that everything is more difficult than it seems.

Besides, in this "difficult and sensitive issue", "screening" was "in accordance with established international criteria". Economic refugees are "screened out": 10 per cent who are genuine refugees are "screened in" and a few extra useful ones can come here.

The screened-out 90 per cent are now "temporarily" in Hong Kong till arrangements can be made for their "future". They were very much "a residual problem".

The thought occurred that, if he meant repatriation, the future of this residual problem would be to be screened out in the Vietnamese sense. But there was no need to worry. "Assurance" had been given and would be "monitored".

So, no, he could not pledge that there would be no compulsion, or — in his words — "We're certainly not talking about compulsion at this stage".

Sometimes — as in this debate — the House brings so little time or attention to matters of great suffering.

At others, as in Paul Channon's statement on Lockerbie, the House brings time, words, and grave attention to matters where there is everything to be felt, but very little to be said.

The unhappy ritual was sensitively handled by Mr Channon, John Prescott (for Labour) and David Steel, in a packed chamber.

But, as an undoubtedly sincere voice intoned at the end of the debate, one's own thoughts had left the mock-gothic carving, green leather and muted microphones.

What could it matter to those hundreds of people in Scotland; and to those tens of thousands of refugees, murdered, drowned or "screened-out" as the Foreign Office might put it, and to those still alive? Sorry: "the residual problem".

Matthew Parris

## THE LOCKERBIE JET DISASTER

# Crash plane had 21 mechanical problems

From Charles Bremner  
New York

The Pan American 747 may have exposed the people of Lockerbie to the risk of heavy metal poisoning (Robert Matthews writes).

Boeing, the aircraft's maker, confirmed last night that early 747s had depleted uranium built into their tailplanes as counterbalances. The one which crashed was only the fifteenth built.

So-called depleted uranium, a by-product of nuclear reprocessing, has been built into about three-quarters of all jumbo jets in quantities of up to 1,000 lbs as a counterbalance.

Normally it is safe, but in tiny particles of the sort generated after a violent explosion, it can be ingested, causing potentially lethal heavy metal poisoning.

In the latest issue of *Nature*, Dr Robert Parker, a former US Government scientist, warns that up to 250,000 people could be put at risk by the 1,000 lbs of depleted uranium carried in a 747.

He quotes tests by the US Navy and Nasa which show that temperatures in jet aircraft fuel-pool fires are high enough to cause very rapid oxidation of depleted uranium.

"It is the release of airborne and respirable oxide particles from such fires that present a hazard", Dr Parker said.

maintenance on older aircraft than to buy new ones. Another factor that will keep older aircraft in service is two to three-year waiting lists from manufacturers.

Almost a year before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the first production-line 747 rolled out of a hangar at Boeing's massive plant near Seattle. That aircraft, built to the same specifications as the one which crashed so tragically at Lockerbie, is still in service with Pan Am.

According to both the airline, whose jumbo fleet has an average age of 17 years, and Boeing, there is no reason why it should not be.

The current fleet of 710 jumbos — plus another 173 on order — operated by 70 airlines worldwide could continue in service indefinitely, Boeing said, as long as airlines were prepared to spend the increasing amounts of time and money to keep them maintained to rigorously en-

forced into a sale the airline has fought to avoid since Pan Am was put up on the block in the mid-1980s.

It has succeeded in staying afloat by selling its headquarters building in downtown Manhattan, its Intercontinental Hotels subsidiary, its famed Pacific runs, and by leasing some aircraft and mortgaging others in its 126-plane fleet, which included 38 Boeing 747s.

Much now depends on what caused the accident, in the opinion of financial analysts. If it resulted from either faulty aged equipment or from a new wave of terrorism, the airline's earnings could be severely affected.

That would be yet another blow to the former queen of US air carriers,

a company which pioneered in transoceanic flights shortly after its founding in 1927 by Mr Juan Trippe, a naval aviator. It was Mr Trippe's dream to provide "mass air transportation to the average man".

He set about doing that, by inaugurating new flights to Europe, to the Pacific rim and to remote corners of the US not linked to the East Coast and West Coast cities.

In the process, during Pan Am's "glory days", Mr Trippe established sound relationships with manufacturers which led to the development of whole generations of aircraft. The partnership created the famous China Clipper flying boats and the Yankee Clipper service to Europe. It was Mr Trippe's financial commit-

ment to Boeing aircraft and to Pratt and Whitney which resulted in the Boeing 747 jet.

Employees were told "to forget the glory days" earlier this year by Mr Plaskett, hired from American Airlines.

He spelled out the hard choices faced by the airline. After a decade of high costs, union strife, big losses and increased competition on its profitable transatlantic runs, Pan Am had to pull itself out of the doldrums and find new ways to compete, Mr Plaskett said.

Whatever the result of the crash investigation, the future looks bleak for an airline which in 1948 boasted that it was the first in the world to offer blue-chip first class service.

Quantum Claims, handles personal injury cases, agreed if claims were brought in for compensation in the history of disaster litigation.

However, unlike the Manchester aircraft accident, claims will be strictly limited to a ceiling of 75,000 dollars each (£42,000) unless relatives of dead passengers or the injured can show Pan Am was guilty of "wilful default".

That might apply if, for instance, the airline failed to take adequate security measures in the face of bomb warnings and could give rise to mounting claims in courts in the United States where awards might run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

If a bomb was the cause, the Government could also find itself — initially at least — footing a huge bill for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Unlike the Manchester disaster, claims by relatives of passengers will not be governed by the Warsaw Convention 1929, but by the Montreal Agreement of 1968 which sets a 75,000-dollar ceiling on each claim for death or personal injury.

That agreement, details of which are printed on every airline ticket, applies to all flights to and from the United States.

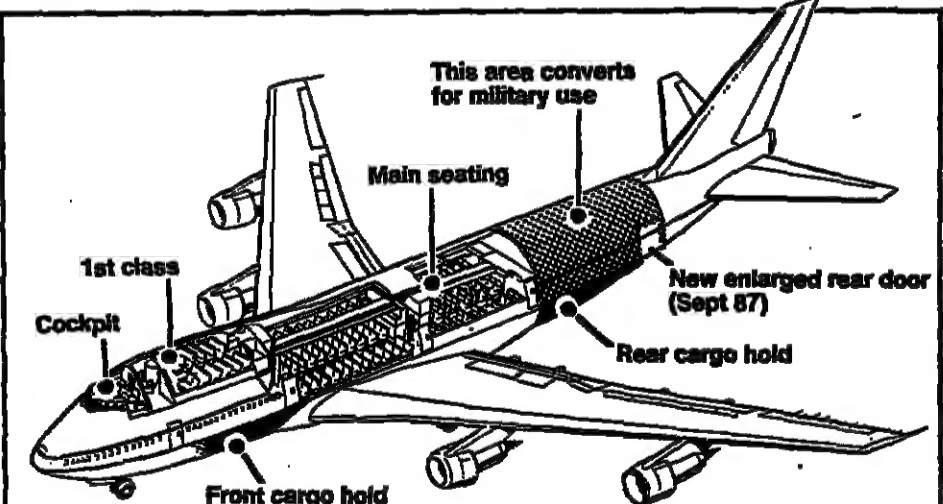
Mr Rodger Pannone, who brought claims over the Manchester air disaster, said: "If the convention limits apply, the levels of compensation will undoubtedly be less than levels recovered in the Piper Alpha oil disaster, for instance."

"But if, and there is no reason to believe this is the case, the airline is guilty of wilful default, levels would be considerably higher."

But he emphasized that relatives and those injured should not at this point be thinking about claims.

"They should be helped to come to terms with their grief, and then, when the time comes, go to their local solicitor."

Mr Frank Lefevre, another solicitor whose company,



forced safety standards. Nevertheless, there is mounting concern about the effects of ageing, particularly in the United States where the average airliner is more than 12 years old.

An experts' commission recommended to the FAA on Monday that airlines flying the older Boeing 727s and 737s, smaller jets making more frequent flights, should fix or replace 122 potential items that can cause trouble on bodies, wings, undercarriage and tails rather than inspect them indefinitely.

Age can cause a range of defects including hydraulic failure that can disrupt the operation of the control surfaces, but the defect most feared by pilots is a structural rupture that can cause catastrophic decompression and the break-up of the aircraft in flight.

Many points are vulnerable, including the forward and aft pressure bulkheads, and the

land with a huge section of fuselage missing. Only one person, a stewardess, was killed.

The FAA ordered intensive inspections of 737 airframes, replacement of thousands of rivets and crack inspections on a range of older jets. Aloha also retired several very old 737s.

The incident prompted calls for a structural inspection of the elderly US commercial airline fleet by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The problems of metal fatigue, particularly those resulting from the repeated bulging of a fuselage caused by pressurization, were the priority, the board said. The survey was not undertaken.

Privately, executives in the airline industry say that the importance of the Aloha accident has been blown out of proportion by media and political pressure.

points where the metal skin is riveted to the airframe. Engineers learnt the hard way about metal fatigue in the early days of jet flight when the first of the British Comets ruptured disastrously around the portholes.

Concern over the dangers from the world's increasingly antique jet fleet surged first in 1985 when a Japanese 747 suffered a failure in its tail section that sent the plane out of control and killed all 520 aboard. Repairs were ordered on all older Boeing 747s.

Last year, Boeing was ordered by the FAA to inspect for metal fatigue cracks in 747 bodies near the first door. If unchecked, they could cause rapid decompression and loss of the plane.

Fears among passengers and the press flared again in America last April with the spectacular break-up suffered by a Boeing 737 of Aloha Airlines over Hawaii. The captain nursed the plane to

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# Britain defies European ruling

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Britain is refusing to comply with a European Court ruling that terrorist suspects must be charged and brought before a court within four days.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, told MPs that it was derogating, at least for the time being, from the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to allow police to continue to be able to detain suspects for up to seven days.

Britain's anti-terrorist laws were held to be in breach of the European convention.

The derogation, under which Britain will withdraw only from parts of the conventions that cover detention, will give the Government more time to consider the European Court judgement and to find a way to

introduce a judicial element into the period of holding terrorist suspects for questioning. It has been considering how a judge, magistrate or legal panel could consider police requests for extensions.

But Mr Hurd told the Commons standing committee on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill that further reflection and consultation was necessary. He said the Government wished to find a judicial solution. His remarks gave MPs the clear impression that if the Government cannot find a satisfactory solution the withdrawal will be permanent.

The European Court ruled that the detention of four men for more than four days in 1984 breached the convention.

The Government's decision was denounced by the Labour Party. Mr Barry Sheerman, its home affairs spokesman, said the decision could harm international co-operation to

defeat terrorism. Mr Peter Archer, QC, a former Labour Solicitor General, said that derogations were supposed to be made only when war or other public emergencies threatened "the life of the nation".

Miss Marjorie Mowlem, the Northern Ireland spokeswoman, said the Government seemed intent on dragging Britain's reputation through the mud. "The Government has missed the chance to make progress towards restoring respect for the rule of law in Northern Ireland."

But Mr Hurd said the Government was determined police should continue to have the powers they needed to counter terrorism, and to be able to detain suspects for up to seven days. Other countries held suspects "for months", but did not fall foul of the convention because of their system of examining magistrates.

"We are also concerned that information about terrorist inten-

tions, which often forms part of the case for an extension of detention, does not find its way back to the terrorists as a consequence of judicial procedures which, at least in the United Kingdom legal tradition, generally require someone accused and his legal advisers to know the information alleged against him."

● The Government is unlikely to announce before the new year a decision on whether to request the Irish government to prosecute the terrorist suspect Father Patrick Ryan.

The news was given by Whitehall sources as the Metropolitan Police continued with interviews of about 60 witnesses who would need to be called if there were a trial under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. Britain cannot compel the witnesses to attend a court in the Irish Republic and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, considers their personal security is paramount.

## Bomb blast soldier is jailed for 10 years

A young soldier was jailed for 10 years yesterday after a boy was scarred for life by his home-made bomb.

James Cobb, aged 19, voted the best recruit of his year by officers from the Second Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, wanted to see a stranger become the victim of his "morbid curiosity" the Central Criminal Court was told.

He planted the complex device in a busy area near his home. Michael Walsh, aged four, was playing when he picked up the bomb in a bottle, thinking it was a drink.

There was a huge explosion and he was turned into a fireball. Mr John Bevan, for the prosecution, said it was a miracle the boy survived.

Cobb, of Haywards Gardens, Putney, south-west London, was found guilty of using explosives with intent to maim, burn, disfigure or cause serious bodily harm. He admitted possessing other explosives and 180 rounds of ammunition.

He told police: "I was bored and a bit depressed. I just wanted to see it go bang."

Mr Bevan said: "It was done out of morbid curiosity or some other unhealthy motive connected to his fascination with explosives."

## Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

A chartered accountant, Mr Douglas Wilson-Croome, from Bournemouth, Dorset, was the sole winner of yesterday's top Portfolio prize of £4,000. Mr Wilson-Croome, aged 33 and a reader of *The Times* since a student, plans to buy diving equipment.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Surrey murder suspect in court

An unemployed man aged 20 was remanded in police custody for three days yesterday, accused of murdering Mr Peter Hurlburt, aged 57, a hairdresser whose body was found trussed up in a field after his car was ambushed at Warlingham, Surrey, last Friday.

Raphael George Rowe, of Sydenham, south-east London, appeared before magistrates at Reigate, Surrey, where he was also charged with attempting to murder Mr Tim Napier, aged 41, at his home in Oxley, Surrey, and with two counts of robbery.

Later a second man, aged 22 and also from Sydenham, appeared in Reigate Magistrates' Court facing the same charges. Mr Rowe will appear in court again on Boxing Day.

## Crossbow evidence

Jane Salvesson, the London design consultant accused of killing another woman with a crossbow, has "authoritative" new evidence that will prove she is innocent, a court was told yesterday. Miss Salvesson, aged 35, is charged with murdering Miss Diana Maw on July 20 this year. Yesterday, Mr Brian Raymond, Miss Salvesson's solicitor, told Ealing Magistrates' Court that he had strong evidence to prove his client's innocence.

## Bill to control racing

A Bill will be introduced next month setting up a British Racing Commission, covering horse and dog racing, betting and breeding. Mr Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, quashed all night outside the Commons' Public Bill Office to win the right to introduce the Bill. It is expected to receive its first, formal reading on January 24, but stands virtually no chance of getting through.

## Strike call criticized

The National Association of Port Employers yesterday described a strike call by leaders of Britain's 9,500 registered dockworkers as "futile and wrongly directed". The Transport and General Workers' Union is to ballot the dockers on an indefinite national strike in defence of the National Dock Labour Scheme, which effectively guarantees them a job for life. It decided on the ballot after two employers—scrap-metal companies—on Clydeside refused earlier this month to use dockers registered with the scheme.

## Hunt for girl's killer

Detectives hunting the killer of Gaynor Barry, aged 14, last night appealed for two men seen talking to her shortly before she disappeared to come forward. The girl was strangled after being sexually assaulted. Her body was found on Wednesday by an attendant at a multi-storey car park. She was attacked as she made her way to her karate lesson in Crowtree leisure centre, Sunderland. Her cousin said she saw Gaynor, of Rosemount, South Hylton, talking to the men, aged about 18, about 15 minutes before class.

## Incendiary devices defused

Members of the Animal Liberation Front are believed to have planted further incendiary devices in stores.

A man has claimed he was treated like a crank when he tried to raise the alarm about one of them.

The suspect packages were found in the men's clothing department at the Kendal Milne department store in Deansgate, Manchester, and in the stationery department at Lewis's in Ranelagh Street, Liverpool. Both were made safe.

Mr Brian Reid, of Clayton, Manchester, said a 999 operator refused to take him seriously when he told how a crossed telephone line allowed him to eavesdrop on the Manchester conspiracy.

He then tried to ring a city police station but failed to get through. Eventually he raised the alarm by telephoning a newspaper office.

## Sound start to charity spot with LSO



Mrs Vivien Fisher, a housewife from Stroud, Gloucestershire, who bid £1,000 in the BBC Children in Need appeal to play with the London Symphony Orchestra, prepares for her moment of glory tonight at the Barbican with Ron Forfar, one of several stars from *Bread*, the comedy series, who are also joining the performance of the Toy Symphony, by Mozart.

## IRA explosives cache

## Police scour London for unit

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard detectives are searching London for "safe houses" used by the IRA active service unit uncovered when a terrorist shot a would-be car thief, leading police to a massive bomb factory in Clapham, south London.

As the search continued yesterday, the Yard issued an artist's impression of the gunman. He is described as having a soft Irish accent, is aged about 30-35, and is 6 ft with dark, wavy hair. He walks with a slight stoop and may be wearing a full-length leather coat.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said police believed the gunman and a second man wanted for questioning were still on the British mainland.

Scotland Yard officers suspect that they and other members of the IRA unit may have used the Clapham flat

purely as a bomb factory and lived somewhere else in London.

The pair are thought to have used a range of false names and the two cars linked to them were bought or hired with false identities.

Police have raided up to 10



Artist's impression of the wanted man.

London addresses in search of the unit's headquarters. Mr Churchill-Coleman confirmed that their list included one residence in Leyton, north-east London.

Details of the two men in the Clapham flat have been sent to the RUC in Northern Ireland and the Garda in the Republic for possible matching against known IRA operators. Fingerprints are being matched with a huge IRA collection built up by the Yard since the 1970s.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said he could not fully explain what the gunman was doing when a youth of 18 apparently tried the door of the Renault car he was in.

The gunman was in the rear of the car, either sleeping or hiding. He shot the youth and ran to the flat. He and the second wanted man fled in a red Rover car, later abandoned in north London.

## Currie was misled, consultant says

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mrs Edwina Currie, who resigned as Under Secretary of State for Health last week, was misled on statistics relating to salmonella contamination in egg production, an independent environmental health consultant said yesterday.

Mr Richard North, a former local authority officer who specializes in cases of food poisoning, said that, given her understanding of the information supplied to her, Mrs Currie would have been wrong not to say what she did in alleging that most egg production in Britain was infected by salmonella.

Mrs Currie has been invited to appear before the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, which has also asked the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture to supply the briefing papers that were prepared for Mrs Currie.

"I honestly believe that she may have been set up", Mr

North said. Information supplied by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre had later been misinterpreted.

For example, no distinction had been made between eggs and egg products, such as mayonnaise, he added.

The result was that cases of salmonella had been attributed to infection in the eggs, when it was more probable that the contamination was the result of unhygienic handling.

In the wake of the discovery of contaminated beef from the Irish Republic to a factory in Cornwall, there was scepticism last night about the assurance from Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, that none of it had entered the food chain.

The ministry said that, although some meat might have found its way into other processing plants, strict controls should have prevented it from being released.

## 5 London hospitals to close

By Jill Sherman

Five London hospitals, the Westminster, St Stephen's, Fulham, Westminster Children's, the West London, and St Mary Abbots are to close by 1992 in a controversial plan to build a £135 million teaching hospital in west London.

The 660-bed Westminster and Chelsea Hospital will be built on the site of St Stephen's and will be paid for by the sale of the four other sites. The sale of St Mary Abbots alone is expected to raise enough money to build the new hospital.

Approving the programme yesterday Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that the new hospital would greatly improve health services in the capital.

● The health service is losing more than £4 million a year from theft and vandalism, a report by the National Association of Health Authorities says today.

## Cancer link with passive smoking

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The harmful effect of passive smoking, in which non-smokers inhale the fumes of smokers, has been shown in new research which establishes positively the link between cigarettes and lung cancer.

The findings also suggest that it is increasingly unlikely that a safe tobacco cigarette could ever be developed.

Scientists examined lung tissue of individuals who smoked between five and 40 cigarettes a day and found that the extent of damage to the strands of DNA at the heart of each cell, which control growth, is directly related to the number of cigarettes

smoked. Non-smokers were included in the laboratory analyses by the research groups working with Dr David Phillips, at the Institute of Cancer Research, in London, and Dr Colin Garner, at York University, which used a sensitive new bioassay to identify chemical agents obtained during lung surgery.

Dr Phillips said more than 50 substances that are biologically active, and potentially damaging to DNA, were generated by burning tobacco. The scientists had detected traces of these compounds in the cells of lung tissue from non-smokers. Unadhered

tobacco contains more than 2,500 identified constituents in addition to habit-forming nicotine alkaloids. They include a wide range of complicated substances found in many plants and at least 30 metallic compounds. Although the dangerous residues left in the lungs have been identified after burning, little is known about the biochemistry of many of them in their original state.

Dr Phillips said the question remained why some heavy smokers escaped lung cancer and why about 10 per cent of victims were non-smokers.

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# Gas leak confirmed as cause of Piper Alpha rig explosion

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The final technical report into the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster has confirmed that gas, fed into a partially dismantled valve, was the likely cause of the explosion.

The Department of Energy report, sent to Lord Cullen, who is to open the official public inquiry into the accident in Aberdeen on January 19, has ruled out any other likely cause.

Investigators considered several scenarios, but concluded that the explanation given in an interim report issued in September — that gas was fed into a valve that had been partially dismantled by maintenance workers — indeed caused the initial explosion on the rig late on the night of July 6. More than 160 rig workers were killed in the disaster.

Among the possibilities considered was sabotage, but the report said: "There is no evidence to suggest that the gas release and explosion was the result of an act of sabotage by anyone on the installation or elsewhere, and no allegations have been received to this effect."

Operational error and mechanical damage were also ruled out. "Operational or maintenance errors other than those already considered are [thought] unlikely in the absence of any evidence."

"Accidental mechanical

damage is another possibility for which no evidence has been identified."

Other possibilities investigated and discounted included plugs of frozen gas liquids forming in pipelines and causing pipe ruptures, other pipeline and pressure vessel failures, and the failure of the platform flare-stack system — however, that was seen to be fully operational 75 minutes after the initial explosion.

The report confirms that new automatic shut-off systems in sub-sea oil and gas pipelines will be required to be installed in all existing oil and gas production platforms.

The oil industry estimates that fitting new shut-off systems could cost as much as £2 billion.

The report confirms that all the proposals for such systems submitted by the oil companies operating in the North Sea are being studied by departmental engineers and new regulations will be introduced to cover the fitting of such equipment.

Gas from sub-sea pipeline systems flowing back towards the burning Piper Alpha platform was a significant contributor to the fire that followed the initial explosion on the platform.

Mr Peter Morrison, the minister responsible for the offshore oil and gas industry, said yesterday that as any

further investigative work into the accident would be undertaken by the public inquiry, Mr Jim Petrie, the Department of Energy's director of offshore safety, would end his investigations.

However, the department's technical staff would continue to investigate various issues raised by the incident that could lead to more safety rules being introduced in the oil industry.

The department based its disaster investigation on statements taken from survivors, witnesses and technical experts. All its conclusions and evidence will be considered in detail by the public inquiry.

Other evidence that the department will submit to Lord Cullen will be a report on seven inflatable life-rafts recovered from Piper Alpha.

An investigation is being conducted to determine why the rafts were not successfully deployed and used and why those that were launched did not inflate.

There will also be a detailed report comparing the risks faced by personnel accommodated on production systems and those accommodated on hotels linked by bridge or by helicopter.

The public inquiry will also deal with offshore evacuation procedures and emergency systems, an area not covered by yesterday's report.

## Cataract scheme puts couple in focus

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Richard Monery and his wife, Betty, who can see each other clearly after being helped by Operation Cataract.

By Emma Wilkins

Mr Richard Monery and his wife, Betty, were having a clear look at each other for the first time for years on the beach at Worthing, West Sussex.

The huge improvement in their eyesight was thanks to Operation Cataract, a scheme funded by the Impact Foundation and Worthing Health Authority to make hundreds of such operations possible by looking after patients at a

hotel before and after surgery. Without the scheme, the Moneris would have had to wait until beds became available.

"It's a wonderful operation", Mrs Monery, aged 75, said. "I can see my husband clearly for the first time. He jokes about it and says I did not realise how handsome he was."

The couple married only six years ago, at a time when both had failing eyesight. They had first met in Worthing when she

was still at school and were childhood sweethearts. They separated after three years, but were brought back together when both their spouses died in 1982. "I feel as though I am 25 years old again", Mr Monery, aged 77, said.

The Impact Foundation, which deals with preventable or remedial disabilities, launched Operation Cataract last year with Worthing Health Authority. Since then 326 people have had their sight restored.

## 'Racist' taunt made after man is stabbed

A man was stabbed to death in a London street after being chased by black youths. Afterwards one of the group returned and is alleged to have told witnesses "that's what happens to racists", it was said yesterday.

Detectives hunting the gang said the victim must have been seen by dozens of people as he sprinted along North End Road, Fulham, south-west London, in a desperate attempt to escape.

He was caught outside the Old Oak public house, beaten and then stabbed at about 11.10pm on Wednesday night. The man, white but not yet identified, is believed to have been aged about 29.

An incident room has been set up at Kensington police station. Det Supt Roy Herdridge, leading the hunt, said: "He was seen to be running along North End Road weaving in and out of traffic."

"He was caught outside the Old Oak pub, ferociously beaten, punched, had his head banged against the pub wall and was kicked to the ground. He was stabbed, we think one stab wound to the heart."

"Given that it was just after pub closing time, that there would have been a lot of pedestrians around and that North End Road is very busy, there should have been a lot of witnesses to what happened."

Mr Herdridge said: "Witnesses have told us that after the man had been stabbed one of the men returned to the scene about five minutes later.

## Call to lift ban on contingency fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The lifting of the statutory ban on contingency fees, by which lawyers would do work on a "no win no fee" basis, was called for by a Law Society working party yesterday.

The move would be a first step towards allowing solicitors to take on cases without charging a fee if they lose, as allowed in Scotland; and to recoup their normal fee from any winnings, if successful.

The Government is likely to recommend that such arrangements be allowed in its Green Paper to be published next month.

The move would not necessarily lead to the American-style full-blown contingency arrangements, by which lawyers reap a percentage of any damages awarded.

The proposals have been drawn up to improve access to justice, in particular for those people ineligible for legal aid but who cannot afford litigation costs.

The present statutory ban prevents any kind of contingency deal, whether the US-style contingency arrangement, by which lawyers take a percentage of any damages awarded; or the Scottish "speculative funding", which enables solicitors there to agree to waive any fee if the case is lost. At the same time, the profession's own practice rules bar such arrangements.

In a working paper on improving access to justice, not yet endorsed by the Law Society Council, the working party comes down clearly in favour of "speculative funding".

Despite the statutory ban on formal arrangements, the practice is widespread and many solicitors take on per-

sonal injury cases, divorce, tribunal cases and even libel claims on the basis that if they lose, they will not claim a fee.

The report says Scottish arrangements should be brought into effect in England and Wales. It recommends that if the statutory ban was lifted, the Law Society should change its own practice rules accordingly.

On the American-style contingency fees, the working party draws no conclusion, although it does highlight what it sees as a number of disadvantages of such arrangements.

Mr Michael Churchhouse, chairman of the working party, said that contingency fees would only be relevant in a small proportion of cases; that is, those where damages were awarded.

The damages also had to be sufficiently large for solicitors' fees to come out of them at the end of the day, he said; and in England and Wales, unlike in the US, damages awards tended to be lower.

Another problem was that because of the courts' rule on costs, the loser in a case pays the legal costs of both sides, which does not happen in the US. So the person entering into a contingency fee arrangement was still at risk of losing money, he said.

The working party rejected a mutual insurance "fixed costs" scheme, whereby clients would pay a fixed sum into a fund. The fund would pay costs if the case was lost, but if won, the client would not recover his premium.

Improving Access to Civil Justice: Some Further Proposals (113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL).

## Weekend food prices

### Set the party going with a whole salmon

Fresh fish will be off most shopping lists now, but for pre-Christmas parties a whole salmon could be the answer if time is short. A small Scottish salmon at 2-4lbs costs about £2.80 a lb, 4-6lbs £2.80 to £3.60 and 8-10lbs £3.40 to £3.80 a lb. Norwegian salmon is even cheaper. Smoked salmon costs from £10.50 a lb and smoked trout from £8.

If you are looking for those meaty tiger prawns or cigales, Covent Garden fishmongers in west London might be your only source of supply. Fresh scallops are a good buy at 60p to £1.20 a lb or out of shell £1.90 a lb.

The supermarket price for turkeys seems to have settled at 98p a lb; fresh geese is more difficult to find but Sainsbury has it at £2.25 a lb and Sainsbury at £1.98 a lb. Frozen geese is £1.75-£1.80.

Ham is the perfect partner for hot or cold poultry. Sausage meat is £1 a lb at Sainsbury.

Most prime cuts are up in price but topside is on special offer at Asda for £2.17 a lb, Sainsbury for £2.18, and Tesco £2.19.

After rich Christmas food what could be nicer than a simple lunch of sausage and mash; Sainsbury has low-fat chipolatas at £1.18 a lb and

Waitrose has Lincolnshire sausages at £1.20 a lb. Marks & Spencer has a great selection of traditional recipe sausages. Bejam has excellent cocktail sausages. Lamb kidneys, at about 30p each, add a nice Victorian touch to breakfast.

There is a superb array of fruit and vegetables for Christmas. Home-grown produce is plentiful, good quality and prices are stable. Cranberries are the pick of the week fruit. They cost 80p to £1 a half pound, which will make three-quarters of a pint of sauce. Citrus fruit is fantastic, particularly little clementines at 25-50p a lb, Satsumas 35-50p a lb and oranges are 8-25p each. Lovely red apples from Canada and America are 45-60p a lb, English Cox 35-65p a lb and Bramley cookers 35-45p.

New crop Californian walnuts 80p to £1.20p a lb are superb quality. Chinese walnuts are 70p to £1 a lb. Filberts 70p-£1 a lb are in good supply due to a particularly good Italian crop. Brazil 75p-£1 a lb are scarce this year. Chestnuts are 90p to £1.25 a lb. Salads are slightly expensive with round lettuce 30-40p a head, Iceberg 60p-£1 each, cress 60-80p each, tomatoes 40-55p a lb, and celery is 50-70p a head.

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## Soviet defence cuts

## General denies that Moscow means to scrap old tanks only

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

A senior Soviet army officer has denied that the Soviet Union will scrap only old tanks when it fulfils President Gorbachev's pledge to reduce its forces in Eastern Europe and insisted that all the nation's military policy-makers were in favour of the cuts.

At the same time Major-General Yuri Lebedev, deputy head of the Armed Forces' General Staff Directorate, conceded that there was "apprehension" in the middle ranks of the armed forces about defence capacity and possible loss of jobs.

Most trepidation, General Lebedev told journalists, originated from comparisons with the effects of the cuts decreed by Khrushchev in 1961. Then, more than a million servicemen were demobilized and some had been left without work for six months or more. Officers had been without work even longer.

Now, officers would account for one in seven of the reductions and the cuts would be more gradual, being completed over a period of two years, the general said. All servicemen made redundant would be able to choose where they lived and worked and could take further education.

Officers were now given a highly technical training and their skills would be readily applicable to the civilian economy, General Lebedev admitted, however, that the re-settlement programme would be expensive and that recon-

struction work after the earthquake in Armenia meant there would be less money.

In the past two weeks the army paper, *Red Star*, has published a number of letters expressing concern about the planned reduction.

While none has openly challenged the thinking behind Mr Gorbachev's initiative, some have drawn attention to the difficulty of finding housing and jobs for so many men in the civilian sector and quoted the adverse effects of the cuts.

Manila (Reuters) — The Soviet Union has hinted at a unilateral withdrawal from its military facilities at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, Mr Raul Manglapus, the Philippines Foreign Minister, said yesterday. After talks here with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, he said Moscow was no longer interested in negotiating the removal of US military bases from the Philippines.

Khrushchev cuts. Others also expressed the hope that Soviet defences would be sufficiently strong after the cuts.

General Lebedev yesterday drew attention to the fact that in his United Nations address Mr Gorbachev had called for "reasonable and reliable defence" for the Soviet Union.

This is a slight difference in wording from the "reasonable defence" and "reasonable sufficiency" which have occurred in Soviet defence statements

since the Warsaw Pact document on military doctrine was published in May, 1987. The word reliable may have been a concession to the military.

Echoing remarks by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in an interview published the previous day, General Lebedev said that the West had a right to know what tanks and troops the Soviet Union was intending to withdraw.

But he dismissed assertions that the cuts would apply only to servicemen working on railways or in agriculture. Whole divisions were being disbanded and their weaponry scrapped. It would not be simply transferred from the front line to the rear. While the tanks to be destroyed would not always be the most up to date, they would not all be the oldest either.

Although many of the details of the cuts still had to be worked out in conjunction with government bodies in the Soviet Union and with other members of the Warsaw Pact, the proposed cuts had been planned for more than a year, General Lebedev said. The political decision to go ahead was taken "recently", he said.

He admitted that the Soviet Union had been wrong in the past to keep information about the level of its forces secret and revealed that the Warsaw Pact was discussing publication of its own statistics. He hoped these would be available early next year.

## Vienna security talks near success

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

After two years of talks on European security, hundreds of diplomats from 35 nations have cut their Christmas break to four days, compared with three weeks last year, amid signs that success is imminent.

The Vienna review of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe adjourned yesterday, but negotiators will be back at their desks on Tuesday. The review is designed to update the 1975

Helsinki Accords on human rights and other issues. It has acquired greater importance because talks on East-West cuts in conventional forces in Europe depend on its successful conclusion.

Diplomatic sources predicted that a final document committing the 35 countries, which include all Nato and Warsaw Pact nations, to higher standards on human rights, will be signed by the foreign ministers between January 16 and 20. This will enable the new forum, called the Conventional Stability

Talks, to begin soon afterwards.

A proposal by Moscow to hold an international human rights conference in Moscow has been one of the sticking points in the Vienna review. The US set stringent preconditions for accepting it, including a demand that Moscow should release all remaining political prisoners. Britain backed the US conditions.

Washington is expected to take the view that Moscow has moved significantly towards its demands. But Britain's approval is also required.

## El Gordo's Spanish magic



Surrounded by the microphones of newsmen, Oscar Paje from San Idelfonso orphanage in Madrid holds up the ball with the winning number after the world's richest lottery was drawn. The lottery worked its annual Christmas miracle in Spain yesterday, spreading riches across the country with a tax-free total payout of more than £400 million (Harry Debelius writes).

El Gordo (the Fat One), as the winning number is known, was worth £27 million this year and went to ticket-holders in Madrid, Barcelona, Lugo and elsewhere. In nearby Alcala de Henares, supporters of a modest football club were wondering how to do with their £23 million. In Madrid, an unemployed barber found himself £242,000 richer and said he would "buy some olive trees and take it easy".

## London cabs to give Nissan a lift

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

A London black taxi on the streets of Tokyo looks only slightly more at home than a wallaby on skis — but that has not discouraged Nissan, the Japanese car maker, from a plan to import at least 200 black cabs a year from next year. In return, Nissan will take over the supplying of diesel engines for London cabs.

The incoherent cabs will be christened Big Bens.

The deal, which is believed to be in the final stages of negotiation, is one of those masterpieces in miniature for which Japan is famous.

Nissan will gain another foothold in a classically British market, challenging the Austin Rover engines and transmissions that now do the job. It will also capitalize on the current boom in Japan for large imported cars and the Japanese people's love of almost anything non-

Japanese — as long as it is also world famous.

Almost best of all, by buying something British in return Nissan hopes to sidestep those European critics who complain that Japan never does anything to narrow its trade gap.

The black taxis will be bought from London Taxi International, but they will not necessarily remain black once here. Nissan will paint them pink, if that is what the buyer wants, and fit them with whatever luxuries their new owners are willing to pay.

The Japanese versions will be much swankier inside than the average British taxi, and certainly roomier than the standard Japanese rival, which is usually a family saloon painted yellow. The doors of a London cab may not jerk open automatically as those on Japanese taxis do — a sometimes winding experience for

the unwary foreigner — but long-legged passengers will be able to remove their knees from under their chins while passing the time in Tokyo's perpetual traffic jams.

Most Japanese taxis belong to fleet taxi companies, which are unlikely to restock their garages with what will be expensive imports: the price has not yet been set, but it will top the price of a Japanese-made luxury car. Some individual Japanese taxi drivers are, however, likely to buy the cabs as a novelty.

Nissan expects to find its biggest market among owners of banqueting and wedding halls, who will use the cabs to ferry brides and guests to receptions. Top hotels are also interested in using them as limousines for guests.

There are no plans to import any London taxi drivers. The people of Tokyo never tip.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

## Australian wins Maralinga claim

Sydney (Reuters) — A former Australian airman was awarded \$406,795,500 (£300,000) in damages yesterday for radiation sickness he claims was contracted at a British atomic weapons testing site in South Australia.

A four-man Supreme Court jury awarded the damages to Mr Rick Johnstone, aged 54, against the Australian Government, which led Britain test nuclear bombs at Maralinga in the South Australian desert in the 1950s.

Mr Johnstone, president of the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association and an RAAF airman during the atomic tests, had told the jury during the 62-day hearing that he contracted radiation sickness when he drove scientists and military personnel to test radiation levels after four tests at Maralinga in 1956. His award opens the way for claims by 43 other workers at atomic sites and for widows of those who died of diseases alleged to have been caused by radiation.

## Polish party reshuffle

Warsaw (Reuters) — Poland's Communist Party has brought reformers into its leadership but rebuffed Solidarity's terms for "round table" talks on the country's future.

A two-day meeting of the Central Committee failed to provide the political impetus the Government had promised to restart talks with the banned trade union. Instead, speeches indicated that the party's attitude towards a formal deal had hardened and the prospect of talks was receding. New men in the Politburo are Mr Stanislaw Ciosek, a moderate, Mr Wiktor Pyrkosz, a textile factory manager, and Mr Janusz Reykowski, a psychology professor.

## Nuclear trade charge

Bonn (AFP) — The West German Government has begun a high-level inquiry into illegal trading in nuclear technology after a former company director was charged with selling radioactive materials to India, Pakistan and South Africa.

A former director of a Frankfurt company, Neue Technologie GmbH, which specializes in nuclear technology, has been released on bail after being charged on December 9, according to the prosecutor's office in Hanau near by. It did not name the man.

## Bhutto brother order

Karachi — A special anti-terrorist court has issued an arrest warrant for Mr Murtaza Bhutto, right, who is living in exile in Syria (Zahid Hussain writes). He is the brother of the Pakistani Prime Minister, Miss Benazir Bhutto. The warrant covers other wanted in connection with the 1981 hijack of a Pakistan International Airlines plane by the Al Zulfikar group, named after his late father, which Mr Bhutto then headed.



## Churbanov judges out

Moscow (Reuters) — Three judges retired yesterday to consider their verdict on Mr Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of Leonid Brezhnev, the late Soviet leader, who has been charged with corruption. Mr Churbanov, aged 52, a former deputy Interior Minister, told the court that he was innocent of taking massive bribes. He was making his final plea in a 10-week trial in which eight former police officials from Uzbekistan are accused with him. The judges are unlikely to pronounce sentence before December 26.

## Small oasis of joy survives within a dying city

From Bill Keller, Leninakan

The mood in the Shaginyan household was not really festive this week, but under the circumstances it seemed an oasis of comfort and joy.

Four families clustered around the table, passing hot buttered meat dumplings and flat Armenian bread by the light of paraffin lamps. When Mr Makarich Kotoyan arrived with an unexpected guest, someone even found a bottle of vodka.

"Thank God that we remained alive," Mr Kotoyan said in his toast. "Thank God that we have such friends." A few streets in any direction lay the ruins of a city shaken to fragments by the Armenian earthquake.

But at 36 Ulitsa Mashinistov life has fallen into a determined routine, the incongruous normality that sometimes develops during war. No one knows how many Arme-

nians live in the ruins of Leninakan, the republic's second largest city, but the number appears to be in the thousands, and possibly in the tens of thousands.

The unlucky ones huddle against the brittle cold nights around campfires in the rubble, or hide in the brittle shells of buildings that could collapse in heavy rain or crumble at any moment.

The authorities have been evacuating people and those who refuse are moved into tents and prefabricated shacks, away from the precarious wreckage.

The fortunate ones, including most of the residents of this street, live in low-standing houses that withstood the earthquake. They have formed a living enclave within the dead city.

In the Shaginyan house, where five people once lived, there are now 20. Their beds, cots and salvaged

belongings are neatly arrayed around the sturdy little house, which is subdivided into six small rooms.

Except for a crack in one bedroom wall, the house appears untouched by the earthquake, even though vast blocks of flats, hospitals and factories nearby tumbled into the earth.

The residents range from the matriarch, Mrs Flora Shaginyan, aged 69, to her granddaughter, Anna, aged 18 months. Mr Georgi Shaginyan's bride-to-be and her father moved in after the earthquake.

Georgi, aged 25, had fashioned a crude but spacious shed alongside the family house to accommodate the 300 guests he had expected for his wedding party.

The wedding, planned for Monday, has been postponed, but the shed, heated by a wood stove, is now the communal dining room. The sister of Georgi, Yekaterina, took shel-

ter here with her husband and his parents.

Another room was given to a friend, Mrs Emma Alaberdyan, and her two sons, who fled to Leninakan from Sumgait, in Azerbaijan, because of attacks on Armenians in February.

The family lived in a grim hostel when they first reached Leninakan, then moved into their own flat in November, two weeks before the earthquake destroyed it.

Life on Ulitsa Mashinistov is a mix of chores and boredom, interrupted by forays for buried belongings and by occasional news of old friends found, alive or dead. In the first days the men joined in rescuing trapped survivors, but that work has virtually ended.

Survivors are being issued ration coupons through their former places of work, entitling them to queue at an assigned spot every two days for

bread, milk and a plastic bag with cheese, sausage, crackers, canned fish and sweets.

Bit by bit, some government services are returning. Newspapers are available at the railway station. A few bus routes have reopened. A local teacher said there were plans to open a school for the remaining children.

But here, around the future wedding table, the families swapped rumours, talked politics and entertained company. "They say that in Spitak, before the earthquake, when they pulled the potatoes up from the earth, they were warm," said Mr Gigan Agaryan, aged 29, a Shaginyan family in-law.

"Well, it's a rumour," he added. "But maybe if the authorities had paid attention they could have evacuated the city and no one would be dead."

New York Times

## Reagan policy and Nicaragua both in ruins

From David Gollob, Managua

President Reagan spearheaded Washington's toughest effort to enforce its power and influence in the New World in decades, but failed miserably to eliminate a small fortress of the revolutionary left in Latin America which, although bleeding from its wounds, remains firmly entrenched.

"Reagan is leaving, but the revolution stays," Nicaraguan government propaganda announced triumphantly on billboards and state-controlled television, as this predominantly Roman Catholic country celebrated its bleakest Christmas since the overthrow of the US-backed Somoza dictatorship nearly a decade ago.

The boast is not a hollow one, but the victory is. Candidly, US officials admit the eight-year war to topple the Sandinista Government is virtually over. This leaves the Reagan Administration's policy of "containing" the left in Central America in ruins, and the incoming Bush Administration grasping for a new one. However, if the Reagan policy is in ruins, so is Nicaragua. A few items illustrate this.

Eight years ago young Nicaraguans, inspired by Sandinista promises of a new society, participated in massive numbers in the most ambitious public health programme ever seen in Central America. Through simultaneous mass vaccinations, en-

demic tropical diseases such as malaria were all but eliminated at a stroke.

By 1988 young men of the same age were streaming across Nicaragua's borders, fleeing military service and a crippled economy. In 1988 there were more than 22,000 cases of malaria, and the growing epidemic is closing in on the capital, Managua.

During the month of December, the Government devalued the national currency five times and reissued 10-cordoba banknotes stamped at 1,000 times their face value. When the currency was introduced in February,

1988, the dollar was pegged at 10 cordobas. The cordoba has depreciated 600 times since then. Projected inflation will surpass 30,000 per cent in 1989, possibly the highest rate in Latin American history.

Dozens of Sandinista cadres have been killed, not fighting the Contras, but in recent traffic accidents as the country's transport and communications infrastructure falls into advanced decay.

Hopes for short-term economic revival were dashed on December 15 when the Defence Minister, General Humberto Ortega, announced that high levels of military spend-

ing and "full mobilization" of the armed forces would be maintained for the foreseeable future, despite the fact that the Contras had been reduced to a "plague ... of bandits".

Nicaragua's growing saga of woe — the spread of poverty, malnutrition, muggers, prostitutes and beggars — is not wholly attributable to what Sandinista media call the "US war of aggression," and some government officials have begun to admit it.

Testing the limits of free speech, the self-defined "progressive" but critical newspaper, *El Nuevo Diario*, has begun publishing lengthy ex-

posed of corruption in high places based on revelations of Sandinista cadres. However, the *Nuevo Diario* crusade against corrupt practices at government-run currency exchange houses was silenced when the minister responsible issued a curt denial. For government allies, the leash of liberty remains short.

The lack of any significant opposition movement cannot be explained by government restrictions on civil liberties, however. Opposition leaders have been jailed on occasion, but this harassment is extremely bland in comparison to tactics of terror and

intimidation used in other Latin American countries where anti-government protest is ebullient.

A recent opinion survey confirmed that support for the Sandinistas hovers around the 20 per cent mark. Yet support for opposition parties is even lower: less than 10 per cent.

The poverty of opposition debate and the absence of credible political alternatives are the main factors, most analysts agree. However, there are hopeful signs.

An independent group of distinguished Nicaraguan businessmen and economists, including former Sandinista foes and allies, has recently launched Nicaragua's first non-partisan "think tank" on how to reconstruct the country. The group's founders say they recognize that it is time to learn how to live with the Sandinistas, rather than "fold our arms and wait for the US to invade".

If the Sandinistas could survive the Reagan presidency, they are almost certain to outlive his successor. The Bush Administration is toying with a more pragmatic policy. Nothing that excludes the lifting of a trade embargo imposed in 1985 and the normalization of bilateral relations will improve conditions either for business or for democracy, most Western diplomats here recognize. Bush pragmatism is unlikely to go that far.

## Hope still flickers for Arias peace plan

From Tony Avirgan, San José

A year ago President Arias of Costa Rica had just received the Nobel Peace Prize for his Central American peace plan, and there was optimism in government circles here that 1988 was going to be the year to harvest the fruits of the initiative.

But a year later many of the hopes and dreams of 1988 have faded and there is a more realistic, although still optimistic, outlook for peace in Central America in 1989.

When the peace plan was signed by the five Central American Presidents in August, 1987, it was agreed that all moves towards democratization and negotiated ends to internal conflicts would be completed within three months. That deadline proved unrealistic and various extensions were announced.

Then timetables were altogether abandoned.

The reasons the peace plan has not been fulfilled are many. President Arias says it is a problem of words not being put into action.

"Everybody says that they support the peace plan," he says, "but I don't think everybody is very sincere ... They pay a lot of lip service to it."

Among those he holds at fault are the superpowers. He blames the Soviet Union for supporting left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador; he blames the Reagan Administration for its support of the Nicaraguan Contras.

President Arias also faults the Central American countries themselves, particularly Nicaragua, which he accuses of continuing human rights violations. He also admits that human rights violations

exist in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Even in Costa Rica there is strong right-wing opposition to joining the proposed Central American Parliament, a key element of the peace plan.

However, he does not see his peace plan as a failure. He argues that when he took office two and a half years ago Costa Rica was on the verge of being drawn into the proxy war the United States was waging against Nicaragua. Now, he says, the shooting in Nicaragua has stopped and there is no chance of his country getting involved in a war. Even if nothing more is accomplished, that is enough to justify his peace efforts.

Despite the troubles the peace plan has had, he sees hope for moving forward in 1989. That is not because of any changes in Central America, but because of changes in Washington and Moscow.



**A BOX OF CHRISTMAS CRACKERS FROM LWT**

It's just The Two Of Us for Christmas, Friday 23rd December 7.30pm.

Little Clive James is getting a racing car for Christmas (a real one). Clive James Racing Driver Friday 23rd December 10.15pm.

EXTROVERT 25: loves to talk about himself in front of millions of viewers, seeks girl of similar disposition. Blind Date Christmas Special, Christmas Day 3.00pm.

THIS CHRISTMAS THE FORCE WILL BE WITH YOU. The first time on TV for The Empire Strikes Back Christmas Day 3.55pm.

BLUE WAGON PUT OUT CHRISTMAS PUDDING! Special edition of London's Burning Christmas Day 8.45pm.

Q: Who makes a spectacle of herself and is glad all over?  
A: Dame Edna Everage.  
One More Audience With Dame Edna Christmas Night 10.25pm.

Q: What makes Christmas even better?  
A: Lots of Disney Specials on LWT.

The Phantom Singers Michael Crawford in Save The Children Christmas Day 6.05pm.

10 Years of A Night On The Deck Christmas Day 7.45pm.

The Trouble With Michael Corleone is on Sunday 18th January at 10.00pm. Not a bad people know him!

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# Bethlehem's Christian Arabs face 'Christmas of pain'

From Richard Owen  
Jerusalem

As friction intensified yesterday in Bethlehem between the Israeli authorities and the local Christian Arabs over their refusal to display Christmas decorations, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem called on Israel to match the dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization with a gesture of its own.

In an interview with *The Times*, Bishop Samir Kafiti condemned "the crude and harsh actions" of the Israeli Army in the occupied territories during the Arab *intifada* (uprising) over the past year.

The Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Michel Sabbah, said yesterday in his traditional Christmas message that

Christian Arabs in the Holy Land would not have "the joy of Christmas in their hearts" this year.

"Some had a son or father killed, others are still in prison and all face heavy military repression," he said. "Secure borders are not secured by technology or violence or occupied territories, only by reconciled hearts, love and truth."

Both Bishop Kafiti and Archbishop Sabbah are themselves Palestinian Arabs.

Yesterday Israeli workers erected the traditional illuminated "Merry Christmas" sign across the road leading from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on the West Bank.

But the roadblocks at the entrance to Bethlehem remain, and entry to Manger Square tomorrow is restricted, with visitors passing

through metal detectors. On Manger Square itself yesterday there were no decorations after an order by Mayor Elias Freij in sympathy with the victims of the *intifada*.

Bethlehem's shops were open yesterday but will be closed tomorrow on the instructions of the *intifada* leadership, which in a leaflet distributed on the West Bank designated Christmas Eve and January 6, the Greek Orthodox Christmas, as "days of national mourning".

The religious ceremonies, including the procession tomorrow to Bethlehem led by Patriarch Sabbah and midnight Mass at the Church of the Nativity, are to go ahead.

Members of Jerusalem's Anglican Church will sing carols on Manger Square as usual. But the

mood is sombre, and the *intifada* leaflet urged Arabs to reject "Israeli participation in Christmas celebrations".

Israeli spokesmen insisted that Israeli officials, such as the Military Governor of Bethlehem, would take part in the carefully defined ceremonies which govern the rights of the three main churches — Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian — in Bethlehem and to alter the *status quo* would arouse church opposition.

Bishop Kafiti would normally exchange visits at this time of year with the other church leaders in Jerusalem, but instead he is to visit church hospitals in the Gaza Strip to comfort Palestinians injured in clashes with Israeli troops.

The bishop, who was born in Haifa, talks sadly of a Christmas of

"pain rather than joy". Speaking in the relative tranquillity of his study at St George's Cathedral in east Jerusalem, the bishop — whose diocese extends to Jordan, the West Bank, Syria and Lebanon — accused Israel of using an "iron fist policy" to suppress the uprising.

He welcomed the renunciation of terrorism by the PLO and its declaration of a Palestinian state, urging Israel to match this with a gesture of its own.

"Settling problems by peaceful means rather than by force is the beginning of the road to peace," the bishop said. Israel, he added, could afford to make such a gesture since it was "small in numbers but extremely powerful militarily".

According to some Israeli sources, Arab Christians in Bethlehem and Nazareth are supporting

the *intifada* with reluctance under pressure, knowing that if an independent Palestinian state was established it would be Muslim-dominated.

Bishop Kafiti admits that the *intifada* has made it difficult for him to visit his diocese amid shooting and tear gas, but insists that the Anglican Church is "the church of the land".

"It was here before the creation of the state of Israel, it has lived with crisis and perpetual turmoil from Ottoman times and the British Mandate to the present day."

● **Soldier dies:** An Israeli soldier, aged 19, wounded in a Palestinian petrol bomb attack on an Israeli civilian bus in the West Bank has died in a London hospital, the Israeli Army said yesterday.

## Wives in plea for Beirut hostages

Beirut (Reuters) — The wives of three American academics held hostage in Lebanon for 23 months have sent a Christmas letter to their husbands and pleaded with their captors to free them.

"Dear Robert, Alann and Jesse. We miss you and we are here awaiting your release. The entire world joins us in hoping for your speedy return," wrote Mrs Fyrial Polhill, Mrs Virginia Steen and Mrs Bader Turner.

The letter, which contained black and white photographs of the hostages Robert Polhill, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, was issued in Muslim west Beirut, where a radical group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine says it is holding the three men, seized from the campus of Beirut University College on January 24, 1987.

## Sad birthday for Akihito

Tokyo (AP) — Crown Prince Akihito, next in line for Japan's throne, turns 55 today, a birthday that will pass without the usual festivities because of Emperor Hirohito's critical illness.

Throughout Japan, banqueting and merry-making have been restrained while the nation follows twice-daily reports on the Emperor's medical condition.

## Agent's baby

Paris (AFP) — Dominique Prieur, a captain in the French Army and one of the agents jailed for sinking the Rainbow Warrior ecologist ship in 1985, has given birth to a boy, according to a *Le Monde* announcement in the *Le Monde*.

## Hanged in cell

Johannesburg (Reuters) — Mr Karel Oosthuizen, aged 49, a South African accountant accused of defrauding a medical insurance scheme of more than £1 million, has been found hanged in his cell in Pretoria's Central Prison.

## Distel fined

Paris (AFP) — A French court has given the singer, Sacha Distel, a one month suspended jail sentence, fined him £300 and banned him from driving for six months for his role in a car accident in which the actress, Chantal Nobel, was seriously injured.

## Doctors strike

Harare (AFP) — Zimbabwe's junior doctors have gone back on indefinite strike to protest against the Health Ministry's failure to meet their demands for better pay and conditions.

## Copter crash

Hong Kong (AP) — A helicopter on a training flight has crashed in the south-western Chinese province of Sichuan, killing an officer and a cadet, a Hong Kong report said.

## Shamir says his coalition aims to defeat uprising

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday presented to the Knesset a new coalition which he said aimed to defeat the Arab *intifada* (uprising) in the occupied territories and would achieve unity to counteract "the massive propaganda campaign" launched by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a hard-hitting speech, Mr Shamir rejected the concept of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, declaring that there was already one Arab state in the area — Jordan — and that there was no need for a second one.

He called on Egypt, the only Arab country so far to sign a peace treaty with Israel, to help persuade Jordan and Palestinian representatives — but not the PLO or other "terrorist groups" — to join in peace negotiations.

"I appeal to the King of Jordan to answer our call for peace and enter negotiations with us and representatives of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza

Strip," Mr Shamir said. Mr Shamir's Likud party, which is going to enter a coalition with the Labour Party and most of the religious parties which won seats in the November 1 election, regards Judaea and Samaria, or the occupied West Bank, as an inalienable part of biblical Israel and refuses to make territorial concessions.

Under the guidelines laid down by the new coalition Government, Labour is to be consulted on such issues, but foreign policy is in the hands of Mr Moshe Arens of Likud.

The new government guidelines include the building of up to eight new Jewish settlements on the West Bank over

the next year. Mr Shamir, aged 73, said that, despite Likud's differences with Labour, the new situation (a reference to the US-PLO dialogue) required "a maximum joint effort to meet dangers and hardships".

The religious parties, which also take a hard line over the West Bank, have entered government despite their earlier fury when Mr Shamir reneged on his promise to form a coalition with them alone. The religious affairs portfolio may go to the National Religious Party, and the Interior Ministry is in the hands of Shas. Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the Shas leader, said he had

changed his mind about joining Mr Shamir because of "Israel's diplomatic and spiritual situation".

Mr Shimon Peres, who becomes Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said Likud and Labour had "two opinions but one land and one future". The priority was peace and security for Israel.

A leaflet issued yesterday by the underground *intifada* leadership rejected Israeli proposals for free elections and limited self-rule in the occupied territories. It said Washington's decision to talk to the PLO was a "victory for the *intifada*".

But some Israeli officials maintained that West Bank unrest was being fomented by Palestinian radicals opposed to the US-PLO dialogue. There were widespread clashes throughout the West Bank yesterday and refugee camps in Gaza remained under curfew.

Letters, page 13

## Contrasting faces of Israel



Discord and unity: In the shadow of the Church of the Nativity a Palestinian boy walks home from school under the watchful eyes of soldiers while, below, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister and Likud leader, raises his glass to his new national unity Government.



## Man in the News

## A hardliner with an eye to the future

Jerusalem — The three most striking results of the formation of the new Israeli coalition Government yesterday were the appointment of a new Foreign Minister, the emergence of several youthful faces among Likud's ministers, and the lack of women in senior posts (Richard Owen writes).

Mr Moshe Arens, the new Foreign Minister, is seen as a hardline figure compared to Mr Shimon Peres, his Labour predecessor. But insiders at the Foreign Ministry say that, despite his reputation, he is the man to forge a sophisticated Israeli response to "the new situation" created by America opening dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He is also seen as the man to mend Israel's fences with the United States, where he served as the Israeli Ambassador in

1982 and 1983. During his time in Washington, Mr Arens irritated American officials by criticizing US policy in the Middle East, including America's relationship with leading Arab states like Saudi Arabia.

He had earlier shown profound mistrust of the Camp



Mr Moshe Arens: A likely successor to the leadership.

David peace process supported by the United States, and even voted against the Camp David agreements in the Knesset, warning that Egypt could not be trusted.

On his return from Washington, he served as the Likud Defence Minister from March, 1983, and was again regarded as a leading hawk. On the other hand, he is seen as highly intelligent and capable of adapting Israeli policy to changing circumstances.

Born in Lithuania in 1925, Mr Arens emigrated to the United States in 1939 and was brought up a militant Zionist. After the Second World War, he was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and became a distinguished aeronautical engineer, a skill which he brought to Israel, introducing new technology into the Israeli

aircraft industry. He remains concerned with Israeli security measures.

But he is a representative of the older generation of Israeli leaders, and much attention focused yesterday on the younger appointments in Mr Shamir's list, including three young lawyers who are closely associated with the Prime Minister.

They are Mr Dan Meridor, the Minister of Justice, Mr Ronni Milo, the Environment Minister, and Mr Ehud Olmert, a Minister without Portfolio.

All three men are seen by observers as eventual candidates for the leadership in Israel although, in the shorter term, the successor to Mr Shamir, if and when the occasion arises, is more likely to be Mr Arens than any of the young newcomers.

## New tack in Israel's superpower game

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

In an unusual ceremony yesterday a senior Soviet diplomat, Mr Georgy Mariusov, was on the tarmac at Tel Aviv airport to welcome Israeli officials to welcome rescue teams returning from the international earthquake rescue operation in Armenia.

The new Israeli Government faces a paradoxical situation in which Israel's relations with the United States, its ally, are described officially as painful, while relations with the Soviet Union, traditional persecutor of Jews and casitator of Zionism, are fast improving.

According to Israeli America-watchers, there is a "serious crisis" between Israel and American Jewry over Washington's decision to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization and pressure within Israel for a stricter definition of what a Jew is.

Conversely, the Israeli rescue effort in Armenia is a symptom of a remarkable

change in relations between Moscow and Jerusalem, as is the incident three weeks ago in which the Israelis co-operated in returning to Moscow the four Aeroflot hijackers.

For the man who handled both the hijack and the Armenian rescue effort from the Israeli end, Mr Yeshayahu Anug, a senior Foreign Ministry official, all this amounts to the "de-demonization of Israel" in Soviet eyes.

The result could have a profound impact both on the treatment of Soviet Jews and on the Middle East peace process, in which the Soviet Union is keen to have a greater say.

Another senior diplomat, Mr Arye Levin, who recently returned to Israel after serving as the head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, believes it is now only a matter of time before the Soviet Union restores diplomatic ties.

Moscow is calculating to

what extent restoring links with Israel would alienate the more radical Arab states, officials say. But Mr Levin, who held talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Moscow, maintains that the rupture of

Riyadh (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is to contribute more than \$34 million a month from January 1 to sustain the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, a PLO representative said here yesterday. Mr Rafik al-Natche said the contribution was Saudi Arabia's share of a fund which was approved by the Arab summit held in Algiers in June.

Relations in 1967 is now counted as a "mistake".

Mr Anug sees it as highly significant that Soviet television is showing Israelis not as caricatures but as humanitarian rescue workers.

Officials here are cautioning against excessive expecta-

tions, pointing out that while the Soviet image of the Israelis may be changing, the official Soviet line remains that Israeli actions on the West Bank amount to repression.

Soviet-Israeli contacts have developed slowly, until the hijack and the Armenian tragedy. Mr Mariusov, a Middle East specialist who heads the Soviet consular delegation in Israel, had kept a low profile. Even when news of the hijack broke, Moscow first approached the Israelis through Nicosia rather than directly.

Israel's five-man consular team in Moscow operates from one cramped room in the Dutch Embassy. The Israeli Embassy in Moscow, for which Israel has been paying £70,000 a year in rent for the past 21 years, remains empty.

None the less, the Israelis are deliberately building on their improved ties with Moscow, and Israeli officials are keeping in daily contact with Mr Mariusov and his team.

## Gandhi in China Border deal still elusive

From Our Own Correspondent, Peking

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, flew to Xian yesterday leaving behind him in Peking some new friends and a series of Sino-Indian co-operation agreements but no apparent solution to the border problem.

Mr Gandhi said, however, that the two sides had agreed to establish a joint working group on the border, which would operate as annual Foreign Ministry consultations at vice-ministerial and secretarial level, and which could be upgraded to ministerial level when the issues required it.

Eight rounds of border talks over seven years have produced no results, and despite what Mr Gandhi described as "extensive and in-depth discussions" with Chinese leaders during this visit, he said that "the question of conceding territory did not come up".

Mr Gandhi's formula for

dealing with the issue has no timeframe but allows both countries to work towards a solution while improving economic and cultural relations and maintaining peace on the border. Previously, improved relations in other fields have been seen as impossible without a border solution.

China claims 36,000 square miles of Indian territory, including the state of Arunachal Pradesh, and India claims more than 14,000 square miles China absorbed during the 1962 border war.

Mr Gandhi said that co-operation between China and India should be expanded significantly, and that such co-operation would "indirectly help us in solving complex problems".

He would be taking "a very positive message" back to India, "one of rebuilding friendship, starting afresh".

Yesterday Mr Gandhi and his Peking counterpart, Mr Li Peng, signed agreements on cultural exchange, civil aviation and co-operation in science and technology. Mr Li also accepted an invitation to visit India.

● **PARIS:** Delegates from the Cambodian Government and the resistance movements disagreed over conditions for a Vietnamese withdrawal from the country and called off the first meeting of a new working group shortly after it began here yesterday (AFP reports).

Government envoys said that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops should be conditional on an end to foreign aid for resistance forces, but the resistance coalition rejected this and demanded that Phnom Penh agree in principle to a five-point peace plan drawn up by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

## Naked truth brings men, and a few women, flocking in Peking

From Catherine Sampson  
Peking

More than 20,000 Peking residents queued for up to two hours yesterday to buy tickets for the first all-male exhibition at the Central Art Gallery.

Controversy has raged on and off during the past few years over the acceptability of the nude. Until now, "nude art" has been hiding in the dark shelter of the art college studio, dragging out an ignoble existence, according to Mr Wu Guanzhong, the moving force behind this exhibition.

Tickets were 10 times more expensive than usual — two yuan (33p) instead of two jiao (3p) — but at one point the queue stretched more than 200 yards, and the exhibition was packed. As Mr Wu says: "Not only Adam and Eve, but maybe all

the people want to taste the forbidden fruit."

The crowd was not, however, a representative cross-section of society. Women made up about 5 per cent of the viewing public. So why were there so few of them present?

"But they're all women," replied one of the 5 per cent. "I mean the viewers, not the pictures." I persisted. "Oh, I hadn't noticed. Well, there's you and me — we're both women," came the stunning observation.

Two young male journalism students, arms around each others' shoulders, suggested that women were too busy doing housework to come to an exhibition.

Results of an informal poll of women at the exhibition revealed that most were

art students or students with an interest in art. Only a few were clearly being dragged round under protest by boy friends. One clinging to a male arm and giggled furiously when asked if she was embarrassed by one of the few full-frontal male nudes.

Another student was made of sterner stuff. "It's perfectly normal," she said. "Most students are entirely behind this exhibition because it shows the influence of the West. It's the first time we've held this sort of exhibition, and it shows we are opening up."

"Ten years ago this sort of exhibition would have been unimaginable," said one young man.

A doctor in his early forties, meanwhile, was scrutinizing the boards which were, for some reason, placed at knee

height so that everyone who wanted to read them had to squat) which related the history of the nude.

"Western and Chinese culture is very different," he said, "but we are opening up now".

He suggested that a lot of Chinese women might be too embarrassed to attend the exhibition. "Most of the people here are educated," he said. "But some aren't. I suppose they come to see something different."

Two 20-year-old soldiers from Jiangxi province stood wrapped in their padded green uniforms overcoats and fur hats gawking at an abstract representation of a nude. "Can you see a nude there? We can't, what on earth is it?" It had to be admitted that it was not immediately obvious that this picture had anything at

all do with the human body. "We read about this in the papers, so we thought we'd come along to have a good time," they said.

In general, the more abstract the art, the less attention it attracted, while lifelike paintings were rewarded with intense scrutiny from a distance of only a few inches. Artists wandered round discussing their work and signing autographs. Mr Wang Yidong, exhibiting two oils of Western women, said that the exhibition was going to be shown in Japan and perhaps America.

"Some leaders had to turn a blind eye for this exhibition to open," he said. "But Vice-Minister of Culture Mr Ying Ruo-cheng helped us." Mr Ying Ruo-cheng is best known outside China

for his role as the benign jailer in the film *The Last Emperor*.

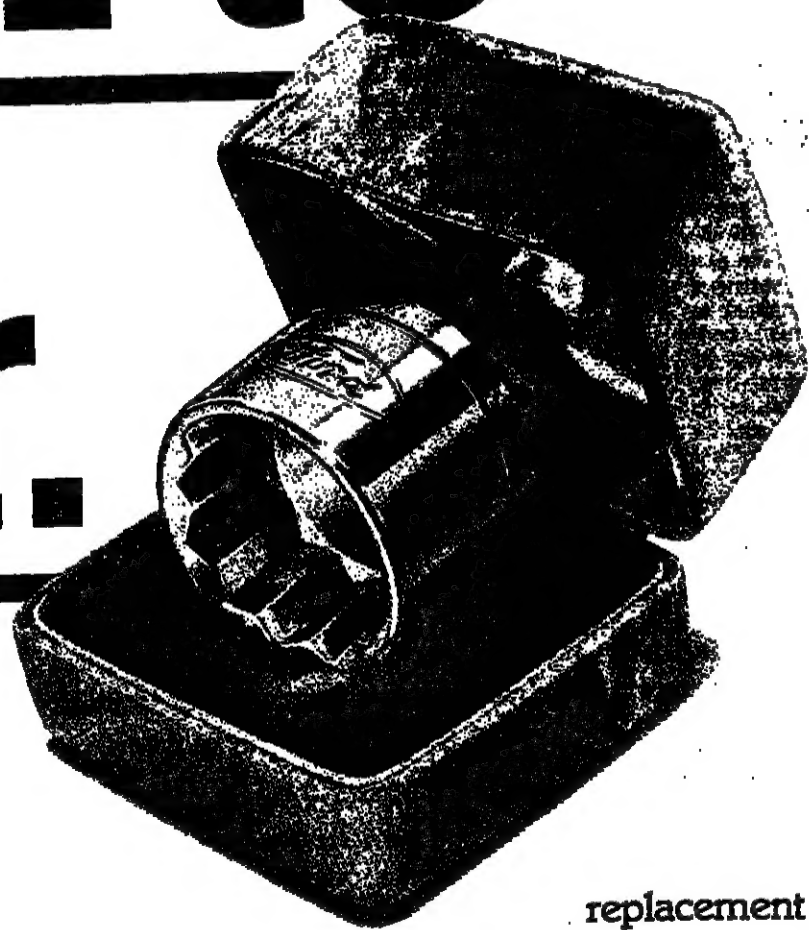
"Most of the exhibitors are young teachers at the Central Institute of Fine Art," said Mr Wang. "And the funding comes from the Guangxi People's Publishing House. They thought they could make some money by printing the catalogues." And indeed, the full-colour glossy booklets retail at 4.5 yuan (£1.48) and hardback catalogues at 45 yuan (£14.85) — about half an ordinary factory worker's monthly wage.

The holding of such an exhibition has already caused debate in the newspapers, and Mr Wang predicts that there will be even more controversy.

There were difficulties in Shanghai and Tianjin after nudes appeared in exhibitions there, he added.



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## SPECTRUM

## Solving the jigsaw of tragedy



As the painstaking task of sifting through the wreckage of the doomed Pan-Am Flight 103 starts at

Lockerbie, William Greaves talks to Frank Taylor (above), who trains men of the Air Accidents Investigations Branch

The more evidence that comes in from around the world that the passengers on Flight 103 were murdered by a terrorist bomb, the harder the scientists and engineers of the Air Accidents Investigations Branch will strive to find a completely different reason for the tragedy.

For almost all of them will at one time have listened to the counsel that Frank Taylor, of the Aviation Safety Centre at Cranfield Institute of Technology, has offered to crash detectives from all over the world for the past 11 years: never jump to the obvious conclusions.

"If you have a theory, the only way to test it effectively is to rule out all the alternatives," Taylor said yesterday. "If you try hard enough to prove something you will do so — and it will be by suppressing all the pieces of information that don't fit neatly into the jigsaw."

Every member of the 30-strong team at Lockerbie who joined the AAIB after 1977 will have attended one of Taylor's eight-week courses at Cranfield and, among other exercises, will have sifted through the wreckage of a simulated crash into which the course director will have deliberately planted enough false trails to lead all but the most wary up the wrong channel of inquiry.

And all of them will know that they need look no further than the Munich crash of 1958, in which the bulk of the Manchester United football team died, to understand the wisdom of meticulous investigation — however apparently obvious the cause. "The head of that team had experienced the hazards of icing on wings, and was so certain that that was the principal factor that it was 11 years later before it was proved to be a shush on the runway. There cannot be any doubt that evidence was suppressed on that occasion," Taylor says.

The Lockerbie team is made up of two main elements: experienced pilots who have come from the airlines or from the RAF, and graduate engineers, mostly with flying experience and representing a wide range of specialist sciences. Some will also have practical experience in the study of human behaviour and behind them all are such resources as the metallurgists of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, the fuel system testing facilities at the Cranfield Institute, and the Home Office's Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough.

On site, the team will already have divided up into separate units and will be going through a well-practised and meticulous programme of investigation, much of it ignoring all conjecture.

"First, they will take aerial photographs of everything exactly where it stands," Taylor says. "And, wherever possible, they will leave everything where it is, rather than collect it together. When an aircraft breaks up in the air, its parts will be severely damaged. Then they are damaged still more when they hit the ground. The last thing you want to do is damage them still further by scooping them up and piling them into a lorry."

Even though the crew in this case died in the crash, one team will interview other crews who were flying in the area to find out if there were any abnormal meteorological disturbances. Others will be examining both the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder which, despite its familiar name of the black box, is painted bright orange for easier discovery.

Then there is a complete assessment to be made of all the weather conditions along the route from London and air traffic tapes to be examined — for, although there were no messages from the cockpit in this case, sometimes the faintest click can be detected which would indicate an open microphone.



Never jump to conclusions: a wrecked light plane is used at the Aviation Safety Centre at Cranfield to teach trainee crash detectives to sift through all the evidence

This, in turn, could indicate a suspicious time lag between the cabin crew going silent and the plane disintegrating.

Another group will look at the loading of the aircraft, both people and baggage, and yet another at all structural and maintenance records.

They will all work entirely independently and, during the first few days of the investigation, meet every evening to exchange notes. At the end of all that, 99 per cent of the wreckage can be forgotten about, with only the critical sections going to the materials department at RAF Farnborough for analysis.

The Cranfield course is attended by British AAIB members and investigators from the world's smaller aviation countries, as well as delegates from major airline

countries such as Canada and Australia. All of them are put through a rigorous programme of detection.

They spend time sifting through crash wreckage, merely recording what they find without attempting to reach any conclusions, and also watching films of mock-up crashes. "This not only enables them to examine each other's eye-witness accounts, but also reveals to them just how inaccurate and contradictory those accounts can be, however well-intentioned. It is vitally important for investigators to learn how to interpret witness information and to realize that it can never be fully acceptable without corroboration," Taylor says.

In a full mock-up crash by a light aircraft on the airfield at Cranfield, the investigators are

provided with air traffic tapes and eye-witness reports and significant pieces of wreckage are deliberately sited some distance away from the immediate crash area. The would-be detectives are also taken through the jungle of international agreements which dictate the procedure when an aircraft is built in one country, registered in another and crashes in a third.

"Uncovering the critical cause of the accident is only the beginning of the trail," Taylor says. "What led up to it and what followed as a consequence are just as important, as well as discovering why the fault proved a disaster. After all, aircraft are designed to absorb considerable damage while still keeping airborne until an emergency landing can be achieved."

"And often the investigation

has to go beyond the point of simply identifying the cause, to make absolutely sure that other factors were not involved. For example, in the BEA Vanguard crash in Belgium in 1971, it was quickly established that metal corrosion had weakened the rear pressure bulkhead and the air passing through blew the tailplane up like a balloon before tearing it off. It was still necessary, however, to try to find out whether the aircraft had been manoeuvring violently at the time, thus putting exceptional pressure on the bulkhead."

Information provided by the investigators often leads to changes in aviation procedure. It was not until the crash at Lusaka, in Zambia, in 1977, when the tailplane came off a Boeing 707 and massive metal fatigue was

found to be the cause, that increasingly regular checks were demanded on the condition of "geriatric jets".

"The metal fatigue had never been picked up by routine inspections, because the longer an aircraft remains in service, the more confident people tended to become in its durability," Taylor says.

It is nearly always the detailed examination of the wreckage on the ground which provides the definitive cause of any crash.

Which is why Taylor re-emphasized yesterday the appeal to treasure hunters to hand over their collections at Lockerbie. "And, even if they do it anonymously, they should attach a ticket indicating exactly where it was found. Such information could still provide the vital clue."

There is a point in the life of all parents when it becomes impossible to hide the fact that they lack the knowledge, or the honesty, or both, to answer their children's questions fully.

Parents react to this exposure of fallibility either by blustering, changing the subject, being economical with the truth, fudging, migrating or referring the question to their partner. Barry Weightman started a newspaper.

It is called *Early Times*, is aimed at young people between four and 17, and will celebrate its first year of publication on January 13. The questions which stumped him came from his three young children, Katherine, David and Christopher, aged 12, 10 and 7 respectively, and they included variations on the classic poser: "Daddy, what's the difference between nuclear power and nuclear energy?"

At that time, which was two years ago, Weightman was a 42-year-old lecturer in mechanical engineering at Imperial College, London. He had been convinced by his children, in the most practical way, that there was a gap in the market for a serious but not

## A big scoop for children

Alan Franks reports on a best-seller newspaper by, and for, young people

over-economical children's newspaper. So he talked to a journalist friend from his days as a student at King's College, London, drew up a business plan and persuaded friends and colleagues to contribute to a starting capital of £100,000.

He began by printing a run of 50,000 copies, which sold out. One year on, he sells that number regularly and reckons that, because of the natural elements of family in school in the readership, each copy of *Early Times* is seen by five or more people.

His specially founded company, Earth Publications, is now making a modest profit.

The present editor is Robert Dunkley, aged 37, who has come from the *Banbury Chronicle*

group of local papers and now has an editorial staff of three, all in their twenties. In the traditional manner of editors, he considers his publication to be nothing less than "the most influential newspaper in the country".

"We are dealing with important world issues for an audience whose minds are in the formative years. We cover those things that are going to be the crucial issues in the decades ahead."

One of the most successful and widely published features has been the innovation of the Press Gang, which any reader can join by completing an application form. Through this network of fledgling freelancers, Dunkley receives about

100 reports weekly of a broad range of events up and down the country.

The Gang's most celebrated assignment was the interviewing of the Prime Minister in June at 10 Downing Street by four of its members.

More recently, a small posse has made a four-day visit to the United States, covering a Press conference at the White House, interviewing an astronaut, visiting the offices of the *Washington Post*, going to a police station in Manhattan.

An even more unusual proposition beckons in the coming year, for the Moscow press agency Novosti has invited a delegation to visit the Soviet Union.

"We do get complaints occasionally," Weightman says. "I had a chap ringing up the other day to complain about an article on Santa Claus. His objection was that it could be read by a young child in such a way as to suggest that Father Christmas didn't exist. I took that very seriously indeed."

Alan Franks

● A special 12-page edition of *Early Times* is published free with *The Times* on Tuesday.

## Once upon a perfect time...

Most people look forward to Christmas, but this should not allow us to forget those in our community for whom it represents a period of desolation, a time when they are cut off from their normal source of consolation. For MPs, the ten-day Christmas recess comes as a bitter blow. Memberless locked out of the Chamber, in which they have grown used to setting the world to rights, they roam their constituencies like men adrift, their opinions unheeded and unsought.

Last Tuesday, with only two condemning days left, a group of 54 MPs managed to cram in a bit of last-minute condemnation when one chanced upon a children's book called *Abigail On The Beach*. "Unsuitable," gasped Mr David Tredinnick (Cons, Bosworth) as his 53 sensitive friends elbowing in to have a look, too.

In *Abigail On The Beach* a six-year-old girl says to two boys: "You touch one of my towers and I'll get my daddy to hang you both upside down by the heels. He's in the Mafia, Oh, horror! Meanwhile, Abigail's daddy is drinking

"three cans of beer". Oh, shame on Abigail's daddy! The author does not even have the sense to suggest that it is a low-alcohol beer, of the type favoured by Mr Bottomley. "I think that it would encourage a young child to think drinking beer was a nice thing to do," Mr Tredinnick commented. Oh, the wicked lies of Abigail's publishers!

The 54 MPs who signed the *Early Day Motion* calling on Collins to withdraw the book have now done everything they possibly can to prevent marauding bands of six-year-old alcoholics and their Mafia fathers terrorizing our beaches. But all decent people will wish them to take their campaign of condemnation much, much further.

Already, a special commission has been set up to investigate widespread violence trading under the title of "children's entertainment". In January Mr Douglas Hurd



CRAIG BROWN

will release a "Freedom from Fairytales" White Paper which will herald a crack-down on this type of "entertainment." Among his likely targets are:

● *Goldilocks*. The first scene — in which a young girl is guilty of breaking and entering a home owned by three bears — must in future be rewritten to include her arrest by an astute member of Neighbourhood Watch. In subsequent scenes, the three bears will be seen eating their porridge in peace.

● *Snow White*. This tale involves a poisoned apple. The Government would like to make it clear that there is no such thing as a poisoned apple, though the young, sick and elderly should avoid all apples, and everyone else should cook apples for at least 25 minutes before eating them, or otherwise send them straight to Armenia.

● *Georgie Porgie*. This wholly unsuitable nursery rhyme in

which Mr G. Porgie, unemployed, indecently assaults young women and then tries to evade arrest must on no account be recited in the home. This restriction also applies to "London Bridge Is Falling Down", which erroneously suggests structural faults in a monument regularly inspected by the Ministry of the Environment, "Oranges and Lemons", which includes scenes of mass decapitation, and "Three Blind Mice" which, following complaints from the RSPCA, has been deemed "gratuitously violent".

Leader of the special commission, Sir Humphrey T. Dumteigh, MP for the safest Conservative seat in the country, already claims to have witnessed far worse. "I have seen elderly, defenceless ladies shut in cupboards by transvestite wolves, young girls mercilessly tormented by their older sisters, senior citizens thrown into blazing furnaces by children and a young girl and boy going up a hill and falling from a great height, with serious injury," he says. "Whatever happened to old-fashioned children's entertainment?"



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## TIMES DIARY

SHEILA GUNN

Another ministerial head could be on the chopping block if the farming lobby reads the Lords' contribution to the eggs controversy in *Hansard*. Peers, already poisoned once by raw eggs in their mayonnaise, swore never to touch the things again after listening to attempts at reassurance from Lady Trumpington, their Lordships' farming minister. "Trumpers", as she is known, has admitted that the 51 reported outbreaks of salmonella poisoning were but the tip of the iceberg. Figures were "purely speculative", she said. Would Lady Seear, she asked disingenuously, inform the public health service if she was taken ill? "There are so many people who may have had salmonella," she reported.

Unlike the unfortunate "Eggs" Edwina, Trumpers attended the William Whitelaw school of ministerial survival (motto: If in doubt, apologize). Realizing that even she might have gone a bit far, she apologized "most profusely" for implying that one out of every 10 eggs was not safe to eat. Her gaffes are easily explained. Her civil servants had no time to brief her before she went to the dispatch box. Without their guidance she was imprecise about details.

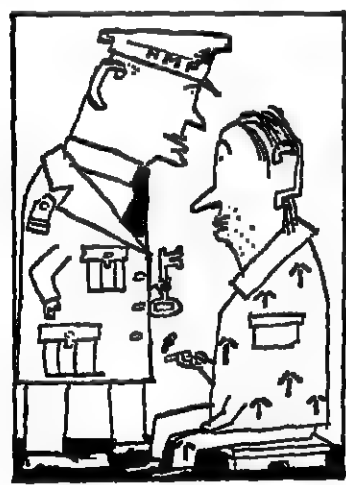
Still on eggs, peers are developing a guilty conscience over the lack of them under the pelicans in St James's Park. Lords' ministers have been seen spying on the poor birds and Lord Stodart of Leaton reports they formed an appreciative audience when he tried out his Commons' maiden speech on them at 4am one summer morning 30 years ago. The Green minister, Lord Caldecote, admits he has not discovered the sex of the four remaining birds. But no pelican in the park has laid an egg since the first were presented in the time of Charles II.

Lord Callaghan is unrepentant about tucking into an enormous Christmas hamper (no eggs included), in spite of outraging one of his former MPs, Dennis Skinner. The Beast of Bolsover's eyes lit up when he spotted a posh hamper addressed to the ex-premier, delivered to Parliament courtesy of the Arab-owned, Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce. He protested at such unashamed indulgence in the Commons. Callaghan freely admits accepting the gift from the bank's president, Agha Hasan Abedi. He also accepted £2 million from Abedi, the first donation made to his scheme for helping Commonwealth students study in Britain.

Lady Elliot of Harwood, one of the first batch of four women to take seats in the Lords 30 years ago, is likely to go down in history as the peer who tried to stop parents hitting their children. Acres of newspaper, agency tape and radio time have been devoted to the idea in recent days. But like other political figures "What crisis?" Callaghan and "On yer bike" Tebbit—she is the victim of mis-quotation. True, she has added her name to an amendment to the Children Bill to outlaw corporal punishment of children in cars. But she has no intention of imposing such a radical change in the law on all parents with miscreant offspring.

Now nearly 86, the still active peer—half sister to Margot Asquith—indulged in her own brand of mischief during her childhood when she played in the nursery at 10 Downing Street. She used to throw teddy bears on to suffragettes who chained themselves to the railings below.

BARRY FANTONI



Resentment is festering among Owenites in the Lords. After losing their battle of the benches to the SLDs, the 25 SDP peers are gradually losing what they consider to be their right to be called to question government statements. The dispute resulted in a most unseemly dispute in the Chamber this week when the SDP's Lord Walston attempted to follow Labour and Democrat spokesmen. Both Lord Walston and the senior Tory backbencher, Lord Boyd-Carpenter, stood resolutely, refusing to give way. With no Speaker to rule, the Lords' leader, Lord Belstead, was eventually forced to step in and, very politely, opted for Boyd-Carpenter.

Politicians, of course, know nothing about acting. Or so Richard Luce, the Arts Minister, assured the cream of Britain's artistic world. He held a very jolly lunch at Admiralty House, bringing together ministers including Kenneth Baker, Tim Renton and Paul Channon with Sir John Gielgud, Sir Alec Guinness, Donald Sinden and an all-star supporting cast. He, and the actors, hope it will become an annual get-together for their mutual benefit. But while Luce may have reassured the stars that ministers are not after their jobs, perhaps it will spark off Reaganesque political aspirations among the performers?

Lord "Bertie" Denham's endeavours to lay down the law in the Upper House over the complex rules on how to address the ranks of dukes, marquesses, viscounts, barons, etc. rather backfired. In his first missive he inadvertently got it wrong himself, upsetting past and present judges of the "superior court" by forgetting to remind peers to refer to them as "noble and learned". He has now issued a second direction correcting his slip.

Traffic congestion in London has been with us for many years, but it has now arrived as a political issue. It is caused by the increasing numbers of people using a transport network no longer able to cope. The questions this raises are: should such movement be in some way constrained; and what kind of London do we want for the 1990s and the next century?

London has been booming. If it is to prosper as a world financial centre, to compete as a European capital after 1992, to cope with increased activity when the Channel tunnel is open, and to capitalize on large developments such as those at Canary Wharf and King's Cross, then new transport capacity is required. Do we want growth, or do we want to restrict it?

In the late 1960s I worked for the Greater London Council, as chief research officer producing statistics for highway planners. Not 12 inches of road was ever built as a result of my four years of providing data, though we did manage to introduce area traffic control for traffic signals. Although Londoners' objections ensured that there would be no road programme of any substance, no one in government, the GLC or elsewhere looked ahead to the consequences of not having a proper road network.

Tony Ridley contributes to *The Times* debate on the capital's traffic

## London's larger choices

Public transport in London in the 1970s was a political football. There was no consistency of policy and investment was grossly neglected. Little or no action was taken in the face of increasing car ownership. Some progress was made with parking controls, but supplementary licensing for cars and road pricing were only nervously whispered about.

As to rail, there has been progress in the 1980s, but it has been a question of running to keep up with the growth of traffic. Three-quarters of central London commuters arrive at work by rail each day. Since the Underground produced its first strategy document in 1983 the number of passengers carried annually has increased from 500 million to 800 million. Investment doubled to £200 million over the same period, but most of it was needed to catch up with past neglect.

It has been forecast that on top of the enormous increases in

travel in the past few years there is the prospect of journeys increasing by 20 per cent in the peak and 30 per cent in the off-peak times.

The public naturally sees the problem in terms of overcrowding and delays on the Underground, safety, and the moving and parking of their cars. But congestion is the symptom, not the disease.

We cannot think about investment in roads, deregulating buses or privatizing British Rail without recognizing that all these transport questions and, indeed, all traffic congestion, relate to social and business development and land use. What kind of development of London do we want? What related transport strategy can we devise? How shall land use and transport policies be linked, and by whom shall this be done?

Let this sound overly collectivist I should say that my 1960s experience of the "grand plan" does not suggest that is what

we should be seeking. Certainly the GLC had failed as a strategic authority long before Ken Livingstone arrived at County Hall. But large private sector companies pursue long-term strategies. Why should not London?

There was no problem about Conservative and Labour politicians agreeing on a strategy when I was in Newcastle upon Tyne, and the result was the Tyne and Wear Metro. Hong Kong, bastion of free enterprise, had no problem about devising an integrated set of transport policies—and we produced the mass transit railway, probably the most successful in the world. Singapore, rumoured to be admired in Downing Street, quite happily ties its planning and transport policies together, and has a tough car restraint policy for its city centre.

There are fortunately some stirrings in this country. Since September 1987, all through the trauma of the King's Cross fire and the enormous pressure of

the 91-day public inquiry, London Underground was working to produce a new strategy and a management reorganization. They are in place. The plan for action has been produced and the Government has responded with more than £300 million for investment next year, compared with the record £200 million last year.

In January of this year I hosted a weekend of lateral thinking and invited both Network SouthEast and Department of Transport officials to discuss a rail strategy for London. Six weeks later the Secretary of State announced the Central London Rail Study.

The CRL is also turning its attention to transport issues, and the private sector is coming forward with interesting proposals. For example, the City Commuter Services Group has been busy with London Transport in promoting the transport interests of the City. The professions are also active. The Institution of Civil Engineers is con-

ducting an inquiry into congestion, and the Chartered Institute of Transport will host a conference on congestion in May.

So people are thinking positively and strategically, and detailed proposals are being worked out. But no one has yet related all of this to the broad issues of social and business development, to housing policies for London, to pressure on the Green Belt, to 1992 and the Channel tunnel.

What is clearly necessary is some forum where all the complex issues can be addressed, a strategy produced, priorities set and financial questions examined—whether funding is to be public or private or mixed.

Each of us no doubt has our own idea of what this might be. A variety of suggestions have been made, such as a new metropolitan authority, an enlarged London Transport, a powerful Cabinet committee—or even a royal commission.

We are shaping the future of London. Will it be by design or by default?

The author was formerly chairman of London Underground, managing director of the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway, and director general of the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive.

David Mellor

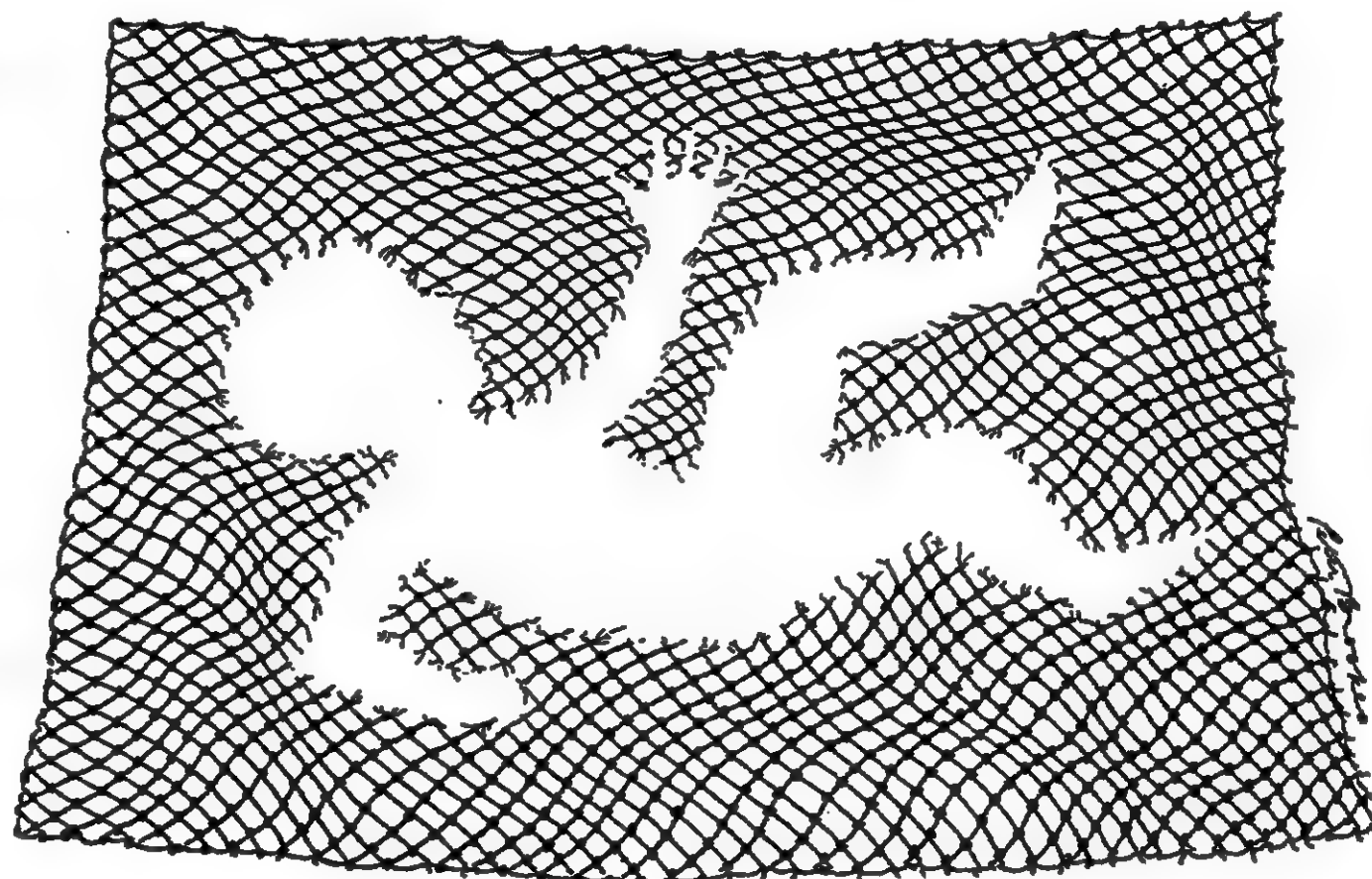
## Learning to save the children

By the cruellest of ironies the full horror of the dismal life and terrible death of Doreen Mason is revealed on the eve of Christmas, the very time when children are most indulged. Of course the millions of children who will awake on Sunday to a mass of presents and love will tell a truer tale about the lot of children in Britain today than the fate of little Doreen. But there has been no shortage of Doreen Masons in recent times. And there are around 40,000 children registered as "at risk" up and down the country. When it comes to child abuse we have nothing to be complacent about.

After each such tragedy, people say, this must never happen again. Realistically, as long as people are prepared to behave as wickedly as Christine Mason and Roy Aston there will always be tragic lives like Doreen's.

But no one can study the literature of child abuse without being convinced that we can and must do better. It is a sobering thought that since 1973 there have been seven statutory inquiries and 28 local ones into child abuse. There is a depressingly familiar ring about the conclusions of all of them, even Cleveland, which was about overzealous, rather than lacklustre, social work. For the most part they all point up the failure of various agencies to work effectively together to protect children at risk, and poor to indifferent management of cases.

Fair-minded people must concede that few decisions are more sensitive and difficult than whether to remove a child from its parents to ensure its protection. So we must have the clearest possible framework of law, with all necessary powers to intervene in proper cases, while safeguarding the rights of parents. That is why we have introduced the Children Bill, and why I hope and pray that in a wholly non-partisan atmosphere in both Houses, the best and most experienced brains will work together to try to ensure we have the detail



right. Another chance may not arise for a generation.

The Bill provides for a new Emergency Protection Order, which has been hailed as a great improvement on the old Place of Safety Orders. The new order emerged only after the most careful consultation. But difficult issues remain to be considered during the Bill's passage.

For example, do we need a new order, a Child Assessment Order, to sit alongside the Emergency Protection Order? Should social workers have a right of entry into homes where abuse is suspected? At the moment the Bill answers each of these questions in the negative, but we look forward to hearing the views of Parliament and will not hesitate to make changes, should contrary arguments be persuasive. The Bill, when law, will sit

well alongside other significant changes in courtroom procedures designed to make it easier to bring child abusers to book. Thanks to the Criminal Justice Act 1988, a child's sworn evidence now stands on its own merits, without the need for corroboration. New arrangements in the Act for video links will, I hope, put a child more at ease when giving evidence about distressing incidents.

No legal framework, however, unless those who operate it are properly trained and motivated, and behave sensibly. That is why we have announced a package of measures to improve social work training in child abuse. And that is why, in recent publications

like *Working Together*, and in the creation of Area Child Protection Committees, we have sought to disseminate best practice and to establish proper co-operation, up to the highest levels, between all the agencies involved.

Inevitably and necessarily a heavy responsibility devolves upon individual social workers. They must identify children at serious risk; closely and regularly monitor their health and development; work wherever possible with the family to secure the child's protection; and be so closely in touch that emergency action can be taken as soon as circumstances arise to justify it.

None of this is easy. But equally there is no point in having social workers if they cannot do this. And of course we know that most of them can.

Most children at risk are protected. About 8,000 places of safety orders were made last year. There is a mass of good social work being done which shows that a high level of personal responsibility can be imposed and properly discharged.

That is why we have to root out the kind of inadequacies which seem to have prevailed in the Southwark social services department. An inquiry is inevitable to find out exactly what went wrong. But we also have to look to the future. This will be done by our own Social Services Inspectorate, whose report on Southwark's ability to handle such cases properly from now on will be available and made public, it is to be hoped, by the end of the inquiry.

A Southwark MP, Simon Hughes, has spoken of "a trag-

ically incompetent department". We shall see if that description is justified. But Southwark's reputation in social services was depressingly low even before this case, and illustrates another problem. A big spending authority, constantly propagandizing about "services", can nevertheless, despite spending money like water, appear to run a pretty poor show. What we do not want are predictable excuses about "lack of resources", if the real problems are, as many suspect, ones of organization, management and individual judgement.

Finally, let us not forget that the public has a role in all this, even if it just means making contributions to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. We must be clear about one thing. Many of these wretched cases do not arise from a sudden explosion of violence.

As in Doreen Mason's case, injuries are often inflicted over weeks and months. Someone must see what is happening. Someone must hear the cries of pain. We all have a duty to report any such suspicions immediately. But all too often we do not. A little child cannot protect herself against abuse. If suffering is ignored by those who know full well what is happening, no amount of law or social workers will avert a tragedy.

Surely all of us can accept that every child has a right to grow up without being abused. It must be one of the hallmarks of a civilized society that children are not abused, and when they are we all care enough to intervene.

Man's inhumanity to child will not end with Doreen Mason, just as public anguish over Kimberley Carlisle and Jasmine Beckford did not prevent Doreen's death. But surely the time has arrived for all of us to commit ourselves to do better, in the clear knowledge that this is not mere rhetoric, and that there are practicable steps that can and must be taken.

The author is Minister for Health and MP for Putney.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

## Punishment in duplicate

Nineteen-year-old Mark Bright will spend this Christmas away from home and without any relatives around him for the first time in his life. He is in Brixton jail. Like all the other inmates of Britain's penal institutions he will not be allowed visitors on either Christmas Day or on Boxing Day—so as not to inconvenience the warders.

Mark was sentenced to six months in prison at the Old Bailey last week for causing death by reckless driving. There are few who would deny that he ought to be punished, though many would doubt the wisdom of shutting him behind bars instead of putting him to work for the community.

No one would argue that his parents should also be punished. But they, like thousands of other relatives of offenders, are sharing the sentence. Indeed, in many cases the incidental punishment that is meted out to them and the suffering that they endure is far greater than that experienced by the criminal.

The families of felons are not separated only at Christmas. For them it is a year-round fact of life. It is, of course, an unfortunate, regrettable but necessary consequence of the incarceration of their relatives; while we employ imprisonment as a

method of punishing offenders, the families of offenders experience it only a fraction of the punishment society inflicts upon them. They are also treated as criminals. As Mark's mother, Sandra, said on *Kilroy*: "We feel as if we are being treated as criminals."

The offenders' relatives are stigmatized. They lose their own identity. They become the "killer driver's mother", "the murderer's mother", "the rapist's wife". Many of them are ostracized by the local community. Thus Mark's mother spoke of the friends who had disappeared and of how she and her husband were shunned by their neighbours. It is even worse for the relatives of a murderer or a rapist. While the offender is shut safely away in prison it is the relatives who are left to face many of the consequences of the crime.

So the mother of the murderer (or even the suspected murderer) is scorned by her neighbours. The rapist's wife is physically and mentally assaulted and she and her children are the subject of death threats.

This kind of treatment is difficult enough for anyone to have to deal with. Yet for many of the relatives of criminals it is by no means the end of their ordeal. Not only are they reviled and shunned by their former friends and current neighbours but their own families also join in the process of dishonouring a double dose of punishment.

The women of men in prison give testimony to the way in which their own families have tended to disown them. As the rapist's wife said: "Nobody can understand how I can stand by him." Not only does her own father and brother refuse to speak to her but even her husband's family has cut her off. It is a common reaction. As the wife of a robber, whose mother will not see her, explained: "My family cannot understand how I can love somebody who has committed a crime."

While adults may be able to accommodate themselves to this kind of hostility, children have an even worse time. Apart from the well-documented psychological effects resulting from imprisonment of their fathers, they are also bullied and taunted at school, and not just by other children. It was an adult who put his hand around the neck of the seven-year-old son of an imprisoned stranger, saying: "This is what your father did."

The families of offenders pay a high price for the crimes of their relatives. Some of it cannot be avoided. It is not possible to allow all offenders to serve their sentences in the community—though a much higher proportion could than do at the moment—or substantially to reduce all of their sentences, though that, again, is possible for most without endangering the public.

We could, however, reduce the burden of this double sentence by treating the wives and families of prisoners with dignity and respect at the prison, and by providing adequate facilities for them there. That, of course, takes time and money. No time or money is needed to bring about the greatest change of all: that of our attitude to offenders' relatives.

If, this Christmas and New Year, when we are asked to think about those families that are separated, we give a thought to those with relatives in prison and determine that in the future they, the innocent, will not be treated as criminals, then we will achieve more, at a stroke, than any government and every prayer.

DEC 23 ON THIS DAY 1902

It is hard to reconcile the writer's "monster machines" with those cherished veterans we enjoy seeing on the annual London-Brighton run.

EARTHQUAKE OR MOTOR-CAR.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—It will, I think, be readily granted that a healthy man, and an habitual resident in London, on going to bed tired out after a day of mental and physical work extending over 16 hours, will probably be able to sleep through all the ordinary and most of the extraordinary street noises of this metropolis.

At a few minutes after 4 o'clock this (Friday) morning, however, there occurred in this neighbourhood, and not by any means for the first time, such a rumbling, thundering sound, and such a vibration of the whole house and its contents, as most effectively to arouse, not to say alarm, every occupant herein. The cause was a motor traction machine, which shook the house to its very foundation and caused the bed upon which for a short time I had been sleeping to rattle and vibrate like a dinner-gong struck by a drumstick....

There are different views entertained by different persons about motor-cars—some dislike, others like them. There are many persons who think that motor-cars offend against every canon of aesthetic feeling by their noises, their smells, their rattlings, their dust, and their ugliness. They are struck with astonishment that any of their friends or acquaintances should ride in motor-broughams, motor-phans, or any such like vehicle, covered or open—none of

which as hitherto constructed, they assert, can be possibly regarded, even by their greatest advocates, as being of "gentlemanly", not to say stylish, design; whilst persons of the most aristocratic or modish taste look on them, if not actually abhorred, when occupying these carriages.

It would, of course, be most unreasonable for those who abhor these machines to be allowed to check their employment or utility; they must tolerate them as they have to do many other things, annoyances... But, Sir, there ought surely to be a limit to the licence of these monster machines in the streets of a large city, not only as to their pace and momentum, but as to the noise they create and the effect they produce upon the property of other people.

As a ratepayer, whose local rates have increased in 11 years at least £20 a year for the same holding, has one not a right to ask that the roadways may be secured against the damage which must result from the passing along them of such cumbersome locomotives? As a citizen, is it unreasonable to remonstrate against one's sleep being disturbed by traffic which in its effects resembles an earthquake?

Are such dangers to be permitted in our streets, like the steam-bore on the canals of Venice? and are they to be regarded as harmless and unobjectionable because they do not bring our walls immediately about our ears, and because it is only by slow degrees that our roadways (many of which are undermined more or less by cellars or sewers) sink, the foundations of our houses crumble, and our main walls insidiously crack and yield?

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
HENRY MORRIS.  
8, Cavendish-square,  
December 19.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## FIRE-EYED DEFIANCE

"The crash of the whole solar and stellar systems could only kill you once", Lockerbie's most distinguished local hero, Thomas Carlyle, once wrote — as though anticipating the need, 150 years in the future, to comfort his descendants. At least 17 of them were killed on Wednesday night by crashing debris from the air and, to judge from their own graphic words, it certainly did seem that the "liquid fire", "pure orange" and "hailstones of metal" meant nothing less than an Apocalypse.

As they, and the rest of the world, quickly discovered, the reality was more prosaic, if no less panic-worthy for those in the disaster's path. A Boeing 747 jet, flying over the town on its way to New York, had been blasted out of the Scottish sky.

Comfort and relief, more gentle than Carlyle's, followed quickly to the people of Lockerbie. First came the rescue services, whose role was rightly praised in Parliament yesterday morning. Then came visits by the Duke of York and the Prime Minister, and the messages of foreign statesmen and the Pope.

After that came questions and anger. No comfort could avail the 258 passengers and crew whose bodies had rained on to the surrounding woods and golf-links. While the cause of the crash may still turn out to be metal fatigue or the like, terrorism is much the more likely.

The American ambassador was quick to point out the likelihood of a bomb on board the jet. So too were other well-informed sources. The attack was claimed by an Iranian-associated group as retaliation for the loss of 290 lives in the shooting down of an Airbus by the USS Vincennes in the Gulf five months ago. Despite arguments linking the crash to the TWA hijack in Beirut and anti-Arafat factions in the PLO, this claim of retaliation was, by last night, the most credible.

Attacks of such sophistication require time to plan. It needs never to be forgotten that those fighting terrorism are no longer locked against an enemy which is reckless, quick-reacting and, if necessary, suicidal. Modern terrorists are calm killers with a well-worked-

out theory of how to dominate democracies by power and fear. Terrorism can only be countered by vigilance and a willingness to respond in kind. The deaths around Lockerbie must strengthen the will for those responses.

It does not appear that vigilance was the watchword surrounding Pan-Am's Frankfurt-to-New York flight, 103. It emerged yesterday that earlier this month American embassies in Europe received a warning of just such a bomb attack as occurred.

In the US Embassy in Moscow, the circular note from Mr William C. Kelly specified the airline and the airport, while making it clear that any decision on altering travel plans was at the "discretion of individual travellers".

Where this warning came from and how widely it was distributed remain matters of secrecy and dispute. US embassy staff do appear, however, to have been given semi-public information that was unavailable to American students, business executives, even soldiers, still less to the other passengers whose relatives mourn their loss today.

The inquiries into the disaster will inevitably have to take place on both sides of the Atlantic. A critical area has to be the procedures for transferring baggage between the "feeder jets" from Germany to Heathrow and the "jumbo-jets" for the journey to America.

It is to be hoped that the investigations are swift, thorough and that their findings are produced as openly as possible. But today emphasis has to be on the grief that also spans the Atlantic. The passenger list of Flight 103 — its American executives working in Germany, its American students studying in London, its American soldiers returning home from the defence of Western freedoms — speaks powerfully of the links that join the continents.

This Christmas the relatives of those on board are uniquely bound to the people of Lockerbie. Carlyle once urged upon himself the casting aside of misery for "indignation and grim, fire-eyed defiance". We urge the sharing of the sadness, the anger and the determination to defy and defeat the terrorists of the sky.

## A PALACE FROZEN

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, whose long rule has reduced his rich country to penury, has never subscribed to the tired colonialist notion that beggars cannot be choosers. Exploiting mineral-rich Zaire's strategic importance to the West he has consistently treated his main backers — France, the United States and Belgium, the former colonial power — with an autocrat's contempt. He is now launched on a major row with Belgium which could lead to the severance of diplomatic relations.

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, innocently incurred the President's wrath by offering, on a goodwill visit to Zaire last month, to forgive a third of Zaire's repayments on a Belgian government loan and to suspend for 14 years repayments on its government-guaranteed commercial debt. The gesture unfortunately provoked an uproar in the Belgian press.

Articles appeared arguing that the money would be better spent alleviating the effects, at home, of Belgium's stringent deficit-cutting austerity programme, since aid to Zaire simply lined ministerial pockets. President Mobutu himself, whose lifestyle is legendary even by the standards of African rulers, was compared with one of the Third World's most celebrated "kleptocrats", former President Marcos of the Philippines.

A furious President Mobutu dispatched his Foreign Minister, Mr Nguzi Karl-Bond, to throw the offer back in Mr Martens' face. The "privileged relationship" with Belgium, the President announced, was over because it had "insulted a so-called friendly head of state". He ordered Zaire's state-owned companies to relocate elsewhere in Europe and its 15,000

citizens in Belgium to remove themselves, and their assets, from the country by the month's end.

The Belgian Government humbly sent its Foreign Minister, Mr Leo Tindemans, to Kinshasa to make peace. But while he was there a Belgian court, responding to a suit brought by a Belgian company whose assets in Zaire had been expropriated without compensation by President Mobutu, froze some of the President's personal assets in Belgium — estimated at more than £3 million and including his "presidential palace" in a Brussels suburb.

President Mobutu will not miss such small change. His foreign bank holdings are estimated at \$5 billion, and he is reasonably well equipped at home, owning 11 palaces (stocked with plants flown from South Africa by a presidentially-chartered Concorde). But his pride may well force a total rift which would harm Zaire's economy more than Belgium's.

Mr Martens may well have reasoned that Belgium was simply making a suitable contribution to Western efforts to alleviate sub-Saharan Africa's debt crisis. He has been put on notice that there is a limit to Belgian taxpayers' willingness to finance corrupt dictators. But if relations are broken off, President Mobutu may have the last laugh.

He once described Belgium as "an awkward country to deal with, small and plagued by tribal rivalries". Disagreements on handling the crisis between the Flemish and French-speaking members of Mr Martens' Cabinet suggest that almost any pretext, in Belgium's chronically divided Government, will suffice to bear him out.

## IN ASHES AGAIN

The collapse of England's cricket tour of New Zealand is a sad but predictable consequence of Pakistan's refusal to take part. The triangular one-day tournament which would have underpinned the tour financially, had to be cancelled — which made this week's decision virtually inevitable.

It is the second time this winter that England's cricketing programme has been overturned. The original plan was a major tour of India, which then refused visas to eight English players because of their South African connections. The reason for Pakistan's withdrawal is the same.

Neither India nor Pakistan deserves much credit. No Test cricket has been played between England and South Africa since the "D'Oliveira tour" was called off acrimoniously 20 years ago. British players who take part in "rebel" tours there have been disciplined.

Those who go as individuals during the winter, to make a living by playing or coaching, are allowed to, however. They have individual rights which should not be lightly restrained.

Strictly the Gleneagles Agreement does not apply to Pakistan, which left the Commonwealth six years before it has not so far returned. Friendly countries should respect this country's policy. Unfortunately England's position is unique. It is only here that cricket is played during the short summer season, leaving players on six-month contracts to fend largely for themselves during the winter. The large sums offered by South Africa to individuals are a temptation which many with family commitments find irresistible.

A proposal from Worcestershire, by Mr Duncan Fearnley, that England should retaliate by banning all overseas players from joining county sides here in the summer, has been opposed by most other county representatives.

They think it would do more harm than good by damaging county finances — while deepening the rift between England and the rest of the cricketing world. A more specific

means of reprisal would be to ban only those players from countries which have acted in this way — in this case, for instance, Pakistan and India. But since Imran Khan ended his contract with Sussex last season it is unclear how many Pakistani players might be attached to English county sides next summer; and the Indian representation is not large. Whether it would put any pressure on the authorities at home, is doubtful.

Most overseas players in England are West Indian — whose cricketing authorities are in fact the most radical of all in demanding still tougher sanctions against South Africa. But a solution must be found before England is due to tour the West Indies in 12 months time.

Indeed it might have to be found in one month's time, when the International Cricket Conference meets at Lord's to consider the issue. Before the ICC will be a resolution which would enshrine the right of host countries to refuse entry to any players it finds unacceptable. This should be deplored as contrary to the spirit of international cricket. But it could still put the Test and County Cricket Board in a difficult and potentially humiliating position.

So far the only sign of a compromise is a suggestion that the new measure should start from now. While players who went to South Africa in future should recognize the risk to their Test careers, those who had already been (like those involved in the current fracas) should start with a clean sheet.

It certainly follows that if new rules are to be written, they should not be retrospective. If they were it would be a bleak outcome for individual rights.

If the TCCB cannot persuade other countries to accept England's own policy in this matter, it might have to settle for a compromise of this kind. The approach of the London special conference, however, does not excuse either India or Pakistan for using England badly in this matter. Their self-righteous unfriendly attitude deserves the very strongest condemnation.

## New backing for 'big science'

From Mr Amedee Turner, QC, MEP for Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Your leading article of December 19 rightly welcomes the British Government back into big-league science. Over the past two-and-a-half years I have, as European Democrat spokesman for research and technology, often been at variance with the Government over the European aspect of these fields. But now the Government have safely been full players in the Community's Ecu 5 billion programme for a year and a half and only last Friday accepted a pilot Community aeronautics programme.

The change in Government policy, which I believe will transform industry's participation in research and technology, was the acceptance of the principle of pre-competitive collaborative research. This principle is the basis of European Community policies, and also of the Japanese. It is this principle that will answer your leader's comments on the industrial response to research and technology.

Under this principle the Government leads by bringing industry and universities together on research which raises whole-industry sectors to higher technological platforms. This is the only "winner-picking" activity, to which you refer, that the Government should go in for. From these higher platforms individual firms each then compete in developing their own competitive products.

At last we have a research and technology policy (except, unfortunately, in the defence field) which will elicit enterprise from industry. Of course whether the budget is high enough is a different problem, but not one of principle.

Yours faithfully, AMEDEE TURNER, 3 Mountrose Place, SW1, December 21.

From Professor Sir Ewart Jones Sir, It was recently announced (report, December 16) that the UK has decided to continue to collaborate in high-energy physics at Cern (European Laboratory for Particle Physics) in Geneva.

For almost all of us it is impossible to assess the scientific gain from our investment of (now) £45 million per year. But it is possible, and now of even more importance with the shortages of resources, to ascertain the value to our academic, industrial, and commercial communities of the manpower that has gained experience at or from Cern over the last 20 years.

As important as cost-effectiveness is the need to transfer the superb technology from "Europe's most successful scientific collaborative venture", as your Science Editor describes it. This information is readily obtainable and should be made available. Yours faithfully, E. R. H. JONES, 6 Sandy Lane, Yarmston, Oxford, December 16.

## Aids charter

From the Chairman of the Council, British Medical Association

Sir, The BMA believes that public education is the only way to contain the spread of HIV infection and that every effort must be made to give the public the facts.

The way in which the human immuno-deficiency virus which causes Aids will be spread further is if the largest group at risk, heterosexual men and women, are encouraged to be complacent (Sir Alfred Sherman's letter, December 14).

There is an alarming potential for future spread; the number of reports of infected heterosexual women in the UK more than doubled from 1986 to 1987.

Most people who have become infected through heterosexual intercourse have done so from partners who are not in the high-risk groups and the Department of Health and Welsh Office working group recently estimated that there are between 6,000 and 17,000 infected heterosexual adults in England and Wales.

In other countries throughout the world there are many where the heterosexual population is among those most affected. In contrast with homosexual men who have to a large extent changed their behaviour, there is still little

## A test of Palestinian promises

From the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Sir, Lord Rothschild (December 21) is right. The shift in position by the Palestine National Council in Algiers (reports, November 15) should be put to the test of serious, searching and specific negotiations.

The Chairman of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) has since confirmed in Geneva on December 14 unequivocally that this shift means explicit recognition of the right of Israel to exist within secure borders; renunciation of terrorism and violence; and acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

It was on this basis, and on the basis of his confirmation that this was what the Algiers decisions meant, that I met Bassam Abu Sharif on December 9. In addition, I sought confirmation from

him that the PNC decision replaced the PLO charter in relation to the existence of Israel. Bassam Abu Sharif replied that it did. He repeated what he had written in the *MidEast Mirror* magazine on November 28, namely:

The Charter of the PLO... has been superseded by the decisions of the PNC, the author of the Charter. By endorsing a two-state solution, the PNC has abandoned the one-state solution mentioned in the Charter.

It is these declarations which should now be put to the test in real negotiations. It is for this that all who wish Israel a secure future for ever, and not just for as long as her military preponderance in the region can give it her, should now work.

Yours etc, WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, SW1, December 22.

## Rights of accused

From Mr T. G. Stanton

Sir, I am a staunch Tory. I am not soft on terrorism. I am not soft on terrorists. Unlike Mrs Thatcher, I can distinguish those who are accused of being terrorists from terrorists, since the two are not necessarily the same.

At a time when the case of the Guildford Four is still under review, and the only evidence against them is "confessions" obtained (a) without a solicitor; (b) during long periods of detention; and (c) whilst they still had the right of silence, it is unbelievable that a Government which pretends to believe in law and order wants to abolish the right of silence, withhold the right to see a solicitor in serious cases, and allow periods of detention which the European Court considered unreasonable.

It is impossible to have a serious belief in law and order if you do not also believe in justice. At this rate it may not be long before the making of an accusation will be the only evidence of guilt that is required.

Yours faithfully, T. G. STANTON, Wintle & Co (Solicitors), 44a High Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

## Identity cards

From Mr Hugh J. Greenhalf

Sir, With reference to your report (December 15) concerning the possible introduction of identity cards, I wonder how many of your readers still possess their national registration identity cards issued during the Second World War.

I always carry mine in my wallet, as I have done for many years now. It bears the date May 24, 1940, and was signed by my mother as I was not quite four years old at the time.

Yours faithfully, HUGH J. GREENHALF, 3 Terhill, Pinville Circus, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, December 17.

evidence that heterosexuals have headed the Government's advice to reduce the numbers of partners or to use condoms. Willful blindness can only make matters worse.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MARKS, Chairman of the Council, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1, December 15.

From Dr G. Murray Jones

Sir, Professor Adler (December 19) mentions some of the recent patients in his department, who must therefore have been aware of recent official governmental publicity via a charter on Aids. One must not invite a breach of confidentiality, but one has to wonder if such distressing cases had ignored the warnings and advice publicised.

During the last war at certain times the forces were warned that the acquiring of venereal disease would be treated as a self-inflicted injury. A heavy-handed ruling? Not in a state of emergency.

Does not "the greatest threat to public health this century" constitute a state of emergency now? Yours faithfully, G. MURRAY JONES, 58 Dumbrynn Avenue, Radyr, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, December 19.

## Traffic troubles

From Mr Brunson Tapp

Sir, Traffic conditions in London (and not only London) are bad, but Christmas is not a time to be gloomy, and your readers might be reminded that within living memory things were much worse. This can be illustrated by two true stories.

As an undergraduate in the late 1920s, in order to go home for the vacation I had to travel between Liverpool Street and Paddington, which I normally did by Inner Circle. Once, having plenty of time, I decided to walk.

When I reached Holborn Viaduct I found myself alongside an ordinary double-decker bus. It went ahead of me for a little, and then I caught it up, and this leapfrogging continued until our ways parted at Marble Arch. I walked fast in those days, but even so, allowing for having to wait like the bus at road junctions, I must have averaged less than 3 m.p.h. The bus therefore must have averaged the same, on a

straight road for two and a quarter miles.

A little later, in 1930 or 1931, a friend took me to London in his Baby Austin. We sat stationary at the bottom of Bond Street for 20 minutes, before there was a gap to allow us to turn into Piccadilly. In those days there were no one-way streets or traffic lights or "no right turns".

My father used to say in the 1930s that the traffic jams in City were nothing like so bad as they had been in the days of the hansom cab. Since, as he used to point out, a horse-drawn vehicle, whether a hansom or the banker's carriage and pair, takes up more space than a modern taxi or a Rolls-Royce, I can well believe that he was right.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, BRUNSON TAPP, 6 Croft Lodge, Barton Road, Cambridge.

## The eggs scare

From Mrs Hilary Barker

Sir, All this attention and Government support being given to egg producers in the light of the salmonella scare leaves me cold. It is not that I don't sympathise.

My husband is a pig farmer and, like many, has been struggling to survive since pig prices plummeted a year ago — a result of cheap imports of pork becoming available because of subsidies given to Danish and Dutch pork producers.

No help was offered by the Government to them, despite the outcry made by pig farmers. If it's that we require a junior health minister to point out the facts to the public before the Government will undertake to resolve such situations, then let's hope there are a few more Edwina Curries about in Westminster!

Yours faithfully, HILARY BARKER, Riverlee, Hull Road, Dunsford, Hull, Humberside.

## Teacher transfer

From Mr Nigel de Gruchy

Sir, I do not wish to comment on the crisis in the Highbury Quadrant school (report, December 13; letters, December 14, 16, 19, 21) as I am not privy to all the facts. However, I note with just a little pleasure that, according to Neil Fletcher, UEA leaders are at last converted to the commonsense proposition that "teachers are best employed to teach".

As an UEA teacher and local NAS/UWT representative for over 10 years in the UEA in the 1970s I tried many times, but unfortunately unsuccessfully, to persuade UEA leaders to this commonsense approach.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL de GRUCHY, Deputy General Secretary, National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, 22 Upper Brook Street, W1.

## Exam boycott

From the General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers

Sir, Vice-chancellors and leaders of universities claim (December 17) that the examination boycott proposed by the Association of University Teachers (AUT) is indefensible, and threaten to resign from the AUT if it proceeds.

Members have voted by a 2-1 majority for this action, not because they have any desire to disrupt universities or penalise students, but because they feel it is the only avenue left open to them. For 11 months vice-chancellors have refused to negotiate a pay increase. They will not commit the money they have now, preferring to hope for additional Government funding.

More money for realistic pay levels from Government is essential, but the vice-chancellors have modest sums they could use now. They have made no offer, merely given an informal indication that they intend to approach Government for more money.

Are the vice-chancellors who threaten to resign from the AUT also prepared to resign from the vice-chancellors' committee? If they would start realistic negotiations, then perhaps the action, which neither side wants, could be avoided.

Yours sincerely, DIANA WARWICK, General Secretary, Association of University Teachers, 1 Pembroke Road, W11, December 20.

## From Mr Gordon Field

Sir, If Mrs Owsianka (December 14) has difficulty in finding a daytime home for her car in the streets of Hammersmith, our local residents and members can only advise her to use public transport or use one of the public car parks, where she will have to pay.

For too long, our streets have been cluttered and obstructed, and as parking zones are extended, we who happen to live in side streets, will no longer find that ambulances, fire engines, and other service vehicles cannot get through.

We are lucky that, for some time past, the police have been removing vehicles that are illegally parked. Parking spaces, for which residents have to pay quite a high cost, are no longer stolen by commuters and yellow lines are now more respected.

Yours faithfully, GORDON FIELD, 34 Gratton Road, W14, December 14.

## Benefit threat to hostel residents

From Mr Alfred Morris, MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe (Labour)

Sir, The Department of Social Security must be stopped from inflicting further hardship on thousands of disabled people, and among others, women and children who have fled from violence and now live in hostels run by voluntary organisations such as Mencap, Mind and Women's Aid.

The Government's proposal, which has angered MPs of all parties, is to substitute income support and housing benefit for the board and lodging payments now made to the residents of these hostels.

If the proposal goes through, many residents will lose nearly £30 a week and no one between 16 and 60 will have enough money to pay the current hostel charge of £70 a week.

Those who run the hostels tell me that, in consequence, 1,750 of their hostels will close at a stroke and that most of the people who live in them will have nowhere to go.

Many will have to join the growing ranks of the pavement-poor whose living conditions on the streets of some of our major cities, as I know well as a trustee of Crisis at Christmas, so utterly disgrace contemporary Britain.

In addition to the human devastation the closures would cause, the Government's so-called community care programme for people with special needs, which is already in tatters, will be further exposed as a cruel sham.

The proposal is bitterly condemned by more than a score of Britain's most widely respected and best known voluntary organisations. It is self-defeating as well as inhumane, since ultimately most of its victims will find themselves in hospitals and other institutions, at far higher cost to the taxpayer than that of the board and lodging payments they now receive.

I call most urgently on the Secretary of State for Social Security to relieve the anxieties of thousands of the most successful people in Britain today by withdrawing this odious proposal forthwith. Yours faithfully, ALFRED MORRIS, House of Commons, December 20.

## Mappa Mundi sale

From the Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine

Sir, The reason for the "map-mindfulness" of medieval Hereford (Professor Harvey, December 9) was that the town contained a school of the kind that in two other English towns, Oxford and Cambridge, turned into universities. The Seven Liberal Arts that were taught there in the early thirteenth century included a study of the celestial and earthly worlds.

Hereford's enterprising Bishop Richard calculated astronomical tables, and one of his more commercially minded canons — Roger of Hereford — was an astrologer. Hereford indeed, although on the periphery of the Mappa Mundi, was a notable centre of studies on the new Arabic "science" coming out of Spain and Sicily.

Alas, Hereford did not become a university, but its learning lives silently on in its manuscripts and its map. One of Roger's manuscripts — no doubt sold by the Dean and the canons to finance the digging of the cathedral's foundations — has slept quietly in Cambridge.

I am therefore in a position, using Roger's own very precise rules for astrological prediction, to offer the national newspapers an infallible guide to the fate of the Mappa Mundi. The very large sum of money I expect in exchange will of course be donated to a fund to keep the mappa in Hereford.

I am Sir, etc, ROGER FRENCH, Director, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Clare Hall, Cambridge, December 9.

## Tucking in

From Mrs Joan Lane

Sir, For an expression of true hospitality I do not think one could improve on that of a retired farmer friend of my childhood, who at Sunday tea, to which I was often invited, would say "Come on now, back yer cart up!" Yours faithfully, JOAN LANE, 11 Dome Hill Peak, Caterham, Surrey, December 5.

From Miss Susan Hill

Sir, As we confront the Christmas lunch, my father, perpetuating his mother before him, always says: "May these be the worst of our days." Yours faithfully, SUSAN HILL, 18 Grendon Close, Tile Hill Village, Coventry, West Midlands.

From Mr J. M. Moss Sir, Far from offering her guests the encouragement of a "bon appetit", the average English family hostess would herself seek encouragement with an anxious "I hope it's all right." I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL MOSS, 29 Charwood, Leigham Court Road, SW16.











## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Change of diet

Like over-worked doctors, Christmas cooks and television schedulers have long relied on repeat prescriptions. The new(ish) Oxo lady has frequently tried to convince us that crumbling that famous dark brown substance fresh from its silver paper is the way to make repeats of Christmas turkey go down a treat. Even dark brown substances would not, however, enable us to stomach the reappearance of certain Christmas television turkeys.

Last night, however, there were two welcome television reappearances. The genius of Alan Ayckbourn is that he can repeatedly cook up the cliché of bourgeois life in such a delicious way. The naggingly hilarious *Season's Greetings* (BBC2) was an appropriate re-run since it showed once more how the repetitions of Christmas engender again and again unique horrors.

*Open Space* (BBC2) with *Lizence to Kill* gave us not an old programme but another replay of a moral theme which is heard more often than any Christmas message at this time of year — don't drink and drive. It was told this time simply and with great emotional power by relations of the victims of drunk drivers.

Over the years the campaign has benefited from our increasingly self-referential and self-parodying advertising culture which intentionally encourages our awareness and enjoyment of ways of presenting advertisements. Inciting discussion about methods of advertising has itself become a form of advertising; and every year we debate the style of the advertisement.

*Lizence to Kill*, however, with much more direct poignancy reminded us what happened to the families of those who, whether they recognised the ads within the ad, did not get the message.

Andrew Hislop

Having recognized that music is a business, Aswad have at last won the recognition they deserve, David Sinclair writes

## The genial face of reggae

This was the year when Aswad finally made good. In a single bound, the reggae trio from West London converted a cult following and 13 years of hard work into No. 1 hit status with the breezy lovers' rock singalong "Don't Turn Around". They became pop stars, seemingly overnight, and suddenly these front-line roots musicians, whose personal image-building did not even run to putting their faces on most of their own album covers, were to be seen cheerfully answering the guest telephones on Saturday morning children's television.

"It was a bit difficult to do that," says the tall, soft-spoken drummer and singer of "Don't Turn Around", Drumma Zeb. "Really, you just have to be yourself, and take it in the light-hearted way it is and to try and come across to the kids. A lot of people have got the image of Rastafas as fearsome, frightening... Don't let your kids see them. A lot of times in the past when we've done interviews, the reporters used to come to the interview shaking, not knowing what to expect, visibly nervous."

In fact, British reggae music could not hope for a more outgoing and pleasantly gregarious spokesman than Zeb. But initial resistance to the group was partly endemic, as his genial, but less talkative, colleague, the bassist Tony Gad, elaborates: "Half of the problem we've had since we started is in just getting to the point where there is a general acceptance of reggae so that you are able to go into a record shop and buy reggae music."

Zeb continues: "It was never a conscious decision to keep our faces off the album sleeves. It was just that the music was the most important thing and we saw ourselves as musicians, not as pop stars. We now see ourselves as



Despite star status, Gad, left, and Zeb see themselves as "musicians who are being appreciated, at last"

musicians who are being appreciated, at last.

"There comes a point where you realize that playing music isn't only about enjoyment or for giving the message; it's also a business. If you're not part of the business, you have no chance of surviving in the music business, which is what we've had to realize. Most reggae groups have been slow to recognize this."

Aswad, originally a five-piece band, assembled in 1975. They walked in to the offices of Island records in 1976 with their demo tape and were promptly awarded a recording contract. Since then the band has twice left Island in search of greener grass, but returned each time to the root.

Now in their late twenties, Zeb, Gad and the guitarist Brinsley Forde (who was aboard a plane

travelling from Los Angeles when this interview was taking place in the rooftop suite of a London hotel) were all born and brought up in the Ladbroke Grove area of West London, where they continue to live, in practically the same houses as when they started the band. Their parents are from Grenada, Jamaica and Guyana respectively.

"Living and growing up as a kid in an area like Ladbroke Grove is a struggle," Zeb recalls. "The police don't give you an easy time. There aren't many places to go and, any places there are to go, the police beam all their efforts on to that place, until it closes down and then you're on the street. Then you're being picked up for being on the street. Suspicion of looking awful, or whatever. We have personally gone through that."

Had there been any change since they were kids — any improvement?

"As you get older you learn how to talk to the police, how to handle them. You grow to deal with it. If you get stopped by the police and you start abusing them straight away and he starts abusing you straight away, then there's no way it's going to end peacefully. But for the young kids today, it's just the same as when we were young, probably worse."

In the late Seventies, many reggae groups became unlikely collaborators in the punk revolution, particularly as part of the flourishing Rock Against Racism movement. "Punk was supposed to be militant and so was reggae," says Gad. "But punks were into break-

ing everything down, which we weren't so interested in. We wanted to build on something that was good."

Zeb adds: "Musically reggae and punk were totally different. Punk was harsh; it didn't have any harmony. Reggae music has a lot of harmony and a lot of rhythm. So there was a tension. We did the Chelmsford punk festival and as soon as we came on stage they started to throw toilet rolls and tomato ketchup bottles, which we didn't like at all. The organizer said 'They love you. That's how they show their appreciation.' But frankly, that wasn't the kind of appreciation we were looking for."

They continued with little commercial encouragement during the Seventies and early Eighties, bundling themselves into transit vans and coping with relentless itineraries on the club and college circuit. Both Zeb and Gad have a strong streak of spiritualism, and declare that it is their Rastafarian faith that has given them the strength to cope over the years. They continue to travel, but now it is in the comfort of a bigger bus.

In the wake of "Don't Turn Around", Aswad has released a "best of" collection which is a musical summary of the band's career from the first single, "Back To Africa" (1976), to the present. Rubbing shoulders with the light, elegant harmonies of songs like "Need Your Love" and "Give A Little Love" are numbers with a more intense spiritual and political dimension. "Rainbow Culture" is a homage to the Rastafarian faith and "Set Them Free" is one of many songs that address the turmoil in South Africa.

Zeb is convinced that music can and should be used as an instrument of social change. The revival of the Sharpeville Six was taken as mildly heartening news. "But they're still in prison."

They're still in chains. They're still being locked up. Hopefully, persistent artists knocking on the door, those gates will be swung open. They need our support."

Aswad made a rather rushed appearance at the Nelson Mandela concert with Sly and Robbie's band, and Zeb goes into an almost, worshipping reverie at mention of Mandela.

"Nelson Mandela is free. In spirit, in terms of what he stands for, he's free. They have to set him free, physically. Both cannot afford to let him die in a South African jail. But spiritually he is already free."

Perhaps it is Aswad's greatest strength that while retaining its musical and political credibility, the band has not shied away from engaging the popular end of the market. It is Zeb's boast that they are the only British group to have worked with three original Wailers — with Bunny Wailer on Jamaican television, with Bob Marley on "Punky Reggae Party" and with Peter Tosh on "Journey 8 Goode". In the past year they have recorded music for the soundtrack of the movie *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and subsequently met the little fellow himself.

But it is no less a source of pride that they were recently asked to produce a track for Cliff Richard. "It might sound a strange combination, but it wasn't strange at all. It was easy, and he was really comfortable to get on with. Working with Cliff Richard was a great honour for us."

Aswad will play on Thursday, December 29, and Friday, December 30, at Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081). The compilation album, *Renaissance*, is available on Stylus Music (SMR 866).

## Return of a winner

## THEATRE

## The Wizard of Oz Barbican

A big hit at the Barbican last Christmas, Ian Judge's production returns, substantially recast, and radiating the confidence of proven winner.

Seeing the show for the first time, I am most struck by the completeness of its adaptation into theatrical terms. Retaining Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg's music and lyrics, John Kane has reorganized the material as though it had first been written for the stage. In place of a celluloid fantasy world, all the effects are rooted in the traditional stage mechanics of traps, red fire, and wire flying. And, given the moral of Frank Baum's story — that the land of heart's desire lies in your own back yard — it makes more sense to see Dorothy clearly staying in the same place than taking off over the rainbow on a Kansas dust storm.

Kansas and Oz are contained on the same black platform enclosed within the same cyclorama. The visual thrill is to see the fantastic transformations that can be achieved within those fixed limits: as where the dull grey gives way to the unveiling of brilliant blue skies and the yellow brick road; and the adventures that lie along it, even though it is a circular treadmill leading nowhere.

The adventures themselves



Far from home: Dorothy (Gillian Bevan) realizes that this is not Kansas

have been rethought as musical theatre numbers so that each friend Dorothy meets on the road has his own backing chorus — the Scarecrow, a trio of Runyonese apple trees (who could be taking a vacation from Miss Adelaide's Hot Spot) for the Tin Man. With the exception of the witch's flying monkeys and Dorothy's scene-hogging mongrel, there is not a fairy tale animal in sight.

This undoubtedly gives the show a more adult edge than the movie: an effect reinforced by a good deal of the dialogue, particularly for Billie Brown, whose red-hot witch is no cackling harpy on a broomstick, but a Mae West-like ogre with a black monocle, given to near-camp lines like "Shall I do something witty and creative?" However, she finally liquefies very satisfactorily.

Gillian Bevan is a rather manner

Dorothy, low on charm, but vocally spot on. The undoubted star is Trevor Peacock's Cowardly Lion, who gets over his own rainbow in "If I Were King" while the others band him gift-wrapped regalia. Paul Greenwood's rubber-limbed Scarecrow and Simon Green's dustbin-shouldered Tin Man adapt the exuberant choreography (by Lindsay Dolan) to their own special range of movement.

Sebastian Shaw makes a lovely return as the Great Oz (alias Professor Marvel), though even booming his sepulchral threats through the Oz public address system, it is always obvious that his heart is in the right place. Mark Thomson's designs, from the art deco domes of the Emerald City to the jumbled high fashion of its inhabitants, combine juvenile fantasy with sardonic wit.

Irving Wardle

play Dr Who; but not all his clownish enterprise nor mock erudition can make Mark Reece's illustrated lecture on automata into an entertainment.

The young children forming a large proportion of the audience were at first thrilled to see their Time Lord lurking about on a swaying ladder and zooming across the stage in a chair. After a pair of blushing late-comers had taken their places, he recapitulated for their benefit the opening 10 minutes compressed into 50 seconds, giving his movements the

lusty jerkiness of a fast-forward video.

All too soon the lecture starts, in which McCoy outlines the history of mechanical sculpture with the help of Richard Cuming in the role of a mechanical lecturer. A mechanical clock simultaneously stirring a cup of tea and swivelling a fly is held aloft, and similar toys follow it.

This is unlikely diverting stuff for a moment or two and the children were mildly diverted. What neither they nor the grown-ups wanted to hear were the Latin names of the muscles required to stir a cup of tea, nor diagrams of the contest between Theseus and Talos (who he?) with no details mentioned. A demonstration of the forces operating in the Forth Rail Bridge, using two men for the piers and a child as the span, left no one wiser; likewise the second and third laws of leverage done with planks.

Why show an automaton (acted by a man) outwitting its controller when the lecture argues that, on the contrary, constructions of wood, wire and ratchets counterfeited human movements, not human will? Why have a man act an automaton anyway?

The constructions are by Paul Spooner and may well be amusing at his museum in Covent Garden: on the stage they are boring.

Jeremy Kingston

## Sculpture's new lease of life

The classical figure is making a quiet comeback, Simon Tait writes

"In you we behold the three great and long undetected principles of Grecian art: simplicity, calm and concentration," wrote Lord Lytton in a eulogy of the sculptor John Gibson, whose work is a centrepiece of the permanent new sculpture display at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, which the Arts Minister opened this month.

Gibson, who died in 1866, was one of our leading figure sculptors; his work was admired and celebrated throughout the century, not least by Queen Victoria. Liverpool was his home town, though he lived and worked in Rome for most of his life, but the Walker's £200,000 investment in creating a gallery for its great collection of natural sculpture, half of which has not been seen for 50 years, is a gamble.

The gamble is that public enthusiasm for sculpture has diverted from abstract to classic figures, according to the gallery's keeper, Edward Morris, and even more that there are artists around now capable of answering the coming public demand. "Figure sculpture has been unfashionable for a long time, but I think taste has switched lately," he says.

Representative sculpture, and the disciplines such as drawing, design with it, is almost a dead art — or had become so up to two or three years ago.

"It did become scarce," says one of the leading modern sculptors, Dame Elisabeth Frink. "It wasn't the lack of models — there were plenty of them available if the art schools wanted them. It was a different concept of how art schools should be: abstract art was

more important than figurative art; now there is plenty of figurative art going on, and a lot of young artists have turned back to the figure."

And the possible saviour of the Gibson tradition, which goes back to the classic Greek, is Royal Doulton. Three years ago, the company opened the Sir Henry Doulton School of Sculpture with Frink as one of its trustees. The second two-year course, which has just begun, had 800 applicants for the seven places; for the next there are already 2,000.

"I was very worried about the teaching of basic decorative arts, and sculpture in particular," says Doulton's design director, Jo Ledger, who persuaded his company to invest £50,000 a year in the project, then brought in North Staffordshire Polytechnic's dean of arts, Colin Melbourne, to head it.

"We didn't need great artists for our kind of work; we needed people with ability and the basic skills and disciplines of representational sculpture, and we weren't finding it," Ledger says. "We were suffering from the madness of the Seventies, when art school training was just an extension of the ego."

But the school was not to be "a sort of design training centre for Doulton". There were to be no conditions, no provisos about working for the company after graduation, or even in the industry. "We hoped we might benefit, but chiefly we wanted to influence a change in mood, and we might claim to have succeeded because there seems to be a swing back."



Echoes of ancient Greece: the new display at the Walker Art Gallery

In fact, Doulton did benefit directly from the first intake, with two graduates joining Ledger's design team; two more went on to Norwich School of Art, another won a touring scholarship in Italy, and another works for Madame Tussaud's, which recently committed an annual bursary to the school.

"There just wasn't anywhere to get the kind of life work we can get here," says one of the current students, the former signwriter Anthony McCue.

The course has a drawing tutor and anatomy teaching from the company doctor, as well as life

classes. There is also the valuable support of Frink, who gives workshops twice a year and made the school's first commercial show a resounding success this summer by having an exhibition of her own work alongside it at Keele University. The students made £10,000 from sales, and established themselves and the school.

"In the Fifties, art education was very restricted and needed to be released," Melbourne says. "It happened, but it went further and further, and inevitably it's gone too far in some areas. There's such a thing as taste, and I think public taste is beginning to bring the pendulum back a bit."

## Compensation from a splendid cast

## OPERA

## Die Walküre Teatro Comunale, Bologna

Wagner's operas used to be rare in Italy, but this year has seen *Der Fliegende Holländer*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and the entire *Ring* in Turin. Now the Teatro Comunale in Bologna — unrivalled last season for musical excellence by any Italian house except La Scala — has launched a splendidly sung *Walküre* as part two of a four-year plan.

The cast could hardly be bettered today. Jeannine Altmeyer's Valkyrie is armed with an infinitely warm timbre that can suddenly disclose a flash of steel, a gift for turning every word to expressive account, and powers of pleading that would make the gods weep (or at least relent). Her luminous stage presence helped to compensate for the wretchedness of the production.

Siegfried Jerusalem is a Tamino who is about to record Siegfried — ideal vocal casting as Siegmund, since he has the lyricism for a mellifluous "Winterstürme" as well as true *Heidentum* heft. He was let down only by his rather unimaginative phrasing, which showed no real individuality or inspiration.

Carmen Roppel was a passionate Siegmund, rising incandescently to her final redemptive

phrases. The American Robert Hale has the voice of a great Wotan, if not yet the interpretative powers to use it. His dark, clearly defined bass-baritone is immensely strong and untiring, and his projection of words is exemplary. But his portrayal of a relentlessly angry god lacked variety and subtlety — even his Farewell was more disgruntled than deeply moved.

Christa Ludwig was an eloquent Fricka, and Sergei Koptchak a suitably brutal, roaring Hunding. Riccardo Chailly is principal conductor in Bologna as well as in Amsterdam, and was tackling a Wagner opera for the first time. It would be unfair to blame him for failing to display a firmer grasp of the work's architecture, since so much of his energy had to be devoted to coaxing his players — this orchestra can play Verdi excellently — but *Walküre* is

unfamiliar terrain and there were several mishaps and problems of balance. Chailly gradually asserted his authority, however, and the last act unfolded in one huge movement whose continuity and concentration never faltered.

The production is designed and directed by Pier Allii, who according to the programme has only one name — just like Wotan (or, come to think of it, Götter). He uses a gauze across the front of the stage as a cinema screen for the projection of symbols and action footage; the singers are often invisible behind it. To give some idea of the range and depth of Pier Allii's symbolism, I cite some examples: when Siegmund and Sieglinde share the mead, the film pans across the outside of the hut, paying particular attention to the window-frames; when spring arrives, unidentified flying objects reminiscent of autumn leaves swirl about; at Wotan's invocation of the redeeming hero, a masked figure on a white horse fills the screen; and in the final, tender moments of Wotan's Farewell, we watch a film of Siegfried uncovering the face of the sleeping Brünnhilde.

Nigel Jamieson



Robert Hale in *Die Walküre*: the voice of a great Wotan

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## FRIDAY PAGE



Karen Angus: 'living in a cube'

**Christmas on rigs  
is not for men  
only. Sally Kinnes  
meets the women  
who will be there**

**F**ulmar Alpha is an oil production platform about 150 miles off the coast of Dundee. At this time of year the days seem even shorter and darker than they are on the mainland and from the portholes everything outside looks grey.

Inside, in the necessarily confined living conditions, it has traditionally been a man's world, where the "North Sea tiger" lives and works. There is no written rule, but women have not been encouraged.

Gradually, however, the rigs are changing. Tomorrow night when the Fulmar's crew pile into the heli-hanger for a special Watch Night service which will be broadcast live on BBC Scotland, there will be a few women there too.

Most of the jobs open to women offshore are in catering. This may seem a stereotypical role for a woman, but Karen Angus, aged 24, who works for CCG Catering as a stewardess on the Fulmar, thinks it is an achievement for women to be working there at all. "We've got a long way to go but the first step's been taken."

It has been an uphill struggle. Alison Wood, the personnel manager of CCG, had to "fight very hard" when she first wanted to go offshore several years ago. "Every-one put up barriers. They said, 'Oh you don't want to go up in a helicopter. You wouldn't like it on a rig', and I thought damn it, I'm going to go."

There is still not a flood of female applicants for offshore jobs. "If I advertised for stewardesses now, 95 per cent of the replies would be from men," says Alison, clearly disappointed by the female response. "I think females are letting our sex down by not pushing themselves to go."

For the oil companies it may well be good psychology to have women working offshore. "The standard joke is that after-sales sales go up immediately in the bonded stores as soon as women go out," she says. "But lots of clients are saying it improves the atmosphere immensely. It's much more relaxed."

Friendships are made, but though Karen has been asked out a couple of times, she has not gone. "The feeling is very much that you are there to work," she says. "I wouldn't say any romance blossoms on the rigs."

Debenham's, once one of Britain's biggest fur retailers, decided this year never to sell fur coats again. Several Army and Navy fur departments have closed, as have old-established shops such as Brahmans of Reading, Barkers of Colwyn Bay and Sifton Marks of Solihull. Two major fur manufacturing firms, Koebel and George Smith, have folded.

Why are we no longer buying furs? Is it because of changing fashion, or the campaigns of the anti-fur societies?

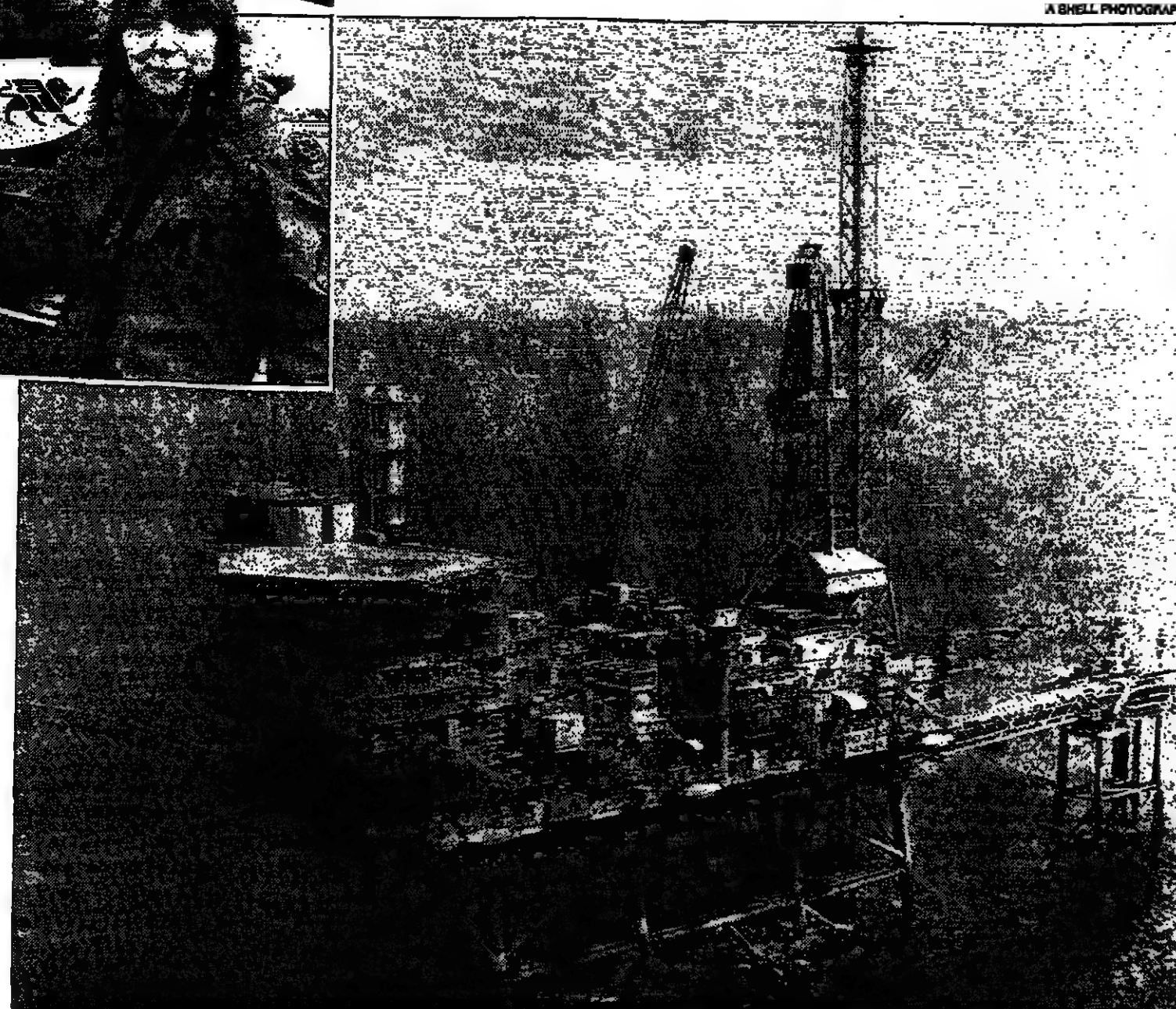
Mark Glover, campaigns director of Lynx, the organization responsible for the famous "dumb animal" poster showing a fur coat trailing blood, and also the anti-trapping cinema film made by David Bailey, has no doubt that the lack of demand for furs is mainly due to its campaigns but he believes the recent fire bomb attacks on department stores, which have been linked to the Ani-

mal Liberation Front, are deplorable.

He says: "They don't need to use these tactics. They are counter-productive. Three different opinion polls have already confirmed that more than 70 per cent of British people would not now wear a fur coat."

"The fur trade has always promoted a glamorous image, but since our campaign began three years ago, the public have been given the facts. Every single fur coat is produced by animal cruelty. You can't make a fur coat without cruelty."

Yvonne Paul, who runs a successful modelling agency, decided five years ago that no girl on her books would model a fur coat. "I have lost bookings because of this policy," she says. "But I don't care. I am totally against fur coats, and anybody who rings me up for a fur booking will get an earful. Many other model agencies now also feel



Making waves: life on the Fulmar production platform in the North Sea is changing and this Christmas women will be celebrating with the men

## Oil riggers of '88

Though Alison thinks most men are now in favour of women working offshore, she still finds pockets of prejudice. "You know women are more acceptable on some rigs than on others. Some men still think it's an invasion of their privacy and they usually get out of it by saying that the accommodation isn't suitable."

Everyone who works on the rigs has to have a survival certificate, awarded after an intensive five-day course. Coping with simulated fires and finding your way out of smoke-filled rooms is part of the first day's training. "If you're claustrophobic you could really panic," Karen says. "The place is burning hot, there's a fire down below, and you've got to walk along a steel gantry about 30 feet up in the air."

Lifboat drill comes later - "If your coxswain's snuffed it you've got to be able to launch the lifboat" - but it was the helicopter underwater escape training that Karen found most frightening. "A mock-up shell of a helicopter comes crashing down in the water, turns upside down, and you have to get out. It was terrifying."

If she panicked at the time Karen has certainly kept her nerve since.

The Piper Alpha tragedy happened during her first trip offshore. "I think on your first trip you are quite frightened anyway. The alarms are so sensitive they're going off quite regularly, but everyone assured us that the layout of our rig was different from that of Piper Alpha so I wasn't unduly scared." Her biggest fear is still not that there will be an accident on the installation, but the thought of a helicopter ditching.

**D**espite Piper Alpha, Alison has not noticed any falling off in applications. "We've had one or two people say they'd rather work on a drilling rig or on an accommodation vessel, but I couldn't categorically name anyone who has left because of Piper Alpha. There are still a lot of people who think working offshore involves big money and we get a constant stream of applications, particularly at stewardess level."

Competition among catering companies is fierce for offshore contracts. Most belong to the Caterers' Offshore Trade Association (COTA), which agrees salary levels. Salaries are about one-and-a-half

times that for the equivalent job on "the beach", an offshore term for the mainland. A stewardess earns about £10,400 a year and a chef about £12,500.

The money is certainly one of the main attractions for Karen. She has, for the moment at least, abandoned her first career as an occupational therapist and now sees herself making a career offshore. "At the moment it's just a job, but I don't imagine I'll be a stewardess forever." Some find the shift pattern of two weeks on, two weeks off, difficult but others run businesses in between shifts. Others, like Kate McLennan, a stewardess on the Fulmar who speaks as though she could have no better job, grab a few days abroad every fortnight.

Karen spends most of her free time riding her 750 Kawasaki motorbike. "On the installation it's like living in a cube for two weeks. You make the best of it while you're there, but you do miss being able to jump in the car or going to the pub."

For safety reasons no alcohol is allowed on the installation and the first stop homecoming crews make is to "the Crit", the Criterion Bar opposite Aberdeen Railway Station. But for the festive season, Shell, the

owners of the Fulmar, are making an exception to the no-alcohol rule. Everyone is allowed one can of lager, one can of export, and seven ounces of wine for Christmas Day and again for New Year's Day, though CCG is asked not to send it all at once lest it is stockpiled.

For the catering staff, Christmas is the most important time of the year. "On an oil rig everyone accepts that they don't know everyone else's job, but everyone thinks they know how to cook," Alison says. "So at Christmas the chefs really have a chance to show off."

If there is a secret to the psychology of working on the rigs it is perhaps knowing what to expect. Christmas and New Year shifts are established a long way in advance so the staff are well prepared. A much bigger problem is if they cannot get back. Getting "fogged on" because the helicopter is delayed is one of the worst aspects of the job.

"You're sitting there in your best clothes with your bags all packed waiting for the chopper and then it's late - it's like waiting for a bus that doesn't come," Karen says. "It's a nightmare, but if there's no one to relieve you, you have to get back into your overalls and get back to work."

## Science of the obvious

The British Psychological Society held its annual conference in London this week and did a bit of thinking about the value of soap operas, the significance of whether husbands or wives choose wine at dinner, and the positive role of supportive teachers in the achievements of gifted children. I let most of this pass on the general theory that the so-called "soft" sciences are accurately named.



BARBARA AMIEL

Then, on Tuesday, Dr Peter Bull of York University, who specializes in inter-personal communications, unveiled his analysis of political interviewing on television. Mrs Thatcher, he announced, evaded 56 per cent of questions put to her, while Mr Kinnock clocked in with a 59 per cent evasion score. He and a colleague had scrutinized eight political interviews during the 1987 campaign, he said, and had logged 31 different evasive tactics. That is when I felt it time to jump in.

Even though I have no degree in either inter-personal, or extra-personal, or even impersonal communications, it has always seemed to me ever since I could tie my own shoelaces that evading questions which one did not like was something akin to the sucking reflex for every interviewee - political or otherwise. Of course, if one wants to address the merits of the question raised by Dr Bull, there seems to be only one thing worth saying about the whole matter.

There is an assumption underlying this quantification that every time a question is not answered directly, the refusal or evasion of the interviewee is somehow an unporting thing to do. I would suggest that while this may well be true 51.8 per cent of the time, there is at least another 48.2 per cent where the question is either sheer nonsense or a polemic disguised as a question that does not deserve an answer.

In fact, all the reports I heard of the psychologists' conference reminded me of nothing so much as the gatherings of the Hun tribes who inhabited the rich lands between the Don and Dniester rivers about 2,000 years ago. Each tribe had a wise man called a *talos*, who was called upon to answer difficult questions such as who should be the next chieftain.

The *talos* had many expert methods to determine such matters. One involved tying a wood-pigeon to a stake and having the candidate chieftain shoot an arrow into the unfortunate fowl. If the bird's blood flowed darkly and slowly, the young warrior's leadership qualities were in grave doubt, but if the flow was bright and copious, he would clearly make a suitable chieftain.

I have no doubt that, were I to recommend this test to Dr Bull and his colleagues, they would smile indulgently. They employ only the most up-to-date, advanced and scientific methods in their studies. They, after all, may be called in to make assessments in family matters such as wardship hearings, and bring to their task a whole range of serious tools such as funny inkspot pictures, scientifically-developed job application forms, polygraph machines, voice stress analysers, acting-out dolls and the like.

They are experts in their field and society accords them professional status. Indeed, they use the same language as a research chemist might; they, too, conduct "studies" and look for "experimental proof". We may resent them or joke a bit when they lord it over us with their questionnaires and tape recorders, but where is the local authority that has stopped employing or consulting them?

In the mistaken belief that these contemporary *talos* operate in a scientific field, it seems to me that we have more than once surrendered our judgement and common-sense to their studies. I suppose it is because we share the same emotional need for certainty and the same fear of the unpredictable future that drew the ancient Huns to their *talos* and his wood-pigeon.

**We may resent them, but where is the local authority that has stopped consulting them?**

And while the advent of science has made us more sceptical of old-fashioned oracles, it seems to have made us all the more susceptible to oracles in scientific clothing. Science, after all, has proved itself by sending rockets to the moon. If a medical doctor's machines can accurately measure our heartbeat and brain-waves, why couldn't a management consultant's machine measure whether we are telling the truth? Why shouldn't we believe the psychologist's conclusion about sex education and prison reform?

No reason, I think, except that the human mind is just a little too complex for the expert's machines. It is not that one should dismiss the intriguing disciplines of sociology or political science - or even human resources management - which may be studied by many intelligent and eminent people. But, like philosophy and theology, they are mere speculations about the nature of human beings and their communities.

They cannot be applied like the hard sciences, nor can they replace our moral instincts as parents, spouses, judges or entrepreneurs. Flying by dead-reckoning or the seat of one's pants is better, as any pilot will confirm, than flying by an unreliable compass.

## Why furs are in the cold

**The terror tactics go on, but the battle against furs might already be won**

strongly, and just about all the top models will not wear a fur coat whatever they are paid."

One fur-coat owner now too embarrassed to wear her animal skin is Marcelle D'Argy Smith, deputy editor of *Cosmopolitan*. This magazine, along with British *Elle* and *She*, now refuses to feature fur coats in any way.

"I own a fur coat which I bought in New York, and at 15 degrees below freezing in winter you need one," D'Argy Smith says. "But now it stays in storage and I wouldn't be seen dead in it, even though

I'm not particularly an animal liberationist. Here, all the staff recoil from running any feature or ad which involves a fur coat."

American *Cosmopolitan* is still fur-minded - it ran an article this year on "My First Mink", and French *Elle* has no scruples about fur features. Decisions as to whether to feature fur are largely up to individual editors.

Joan Chaumeton, who has been in the fur trade for more than 23 years and is a consultant to Sego, the world's biggest producers of ranch-



Luxury: but shunned by many

mink and fox, is in no doubt that the British lack of interest in fur is in large part due to the anti-fur campaigners.

She says: "To my mind, the stores are giving in to terrorism and are made to feel either guilty or terrified for selling furs. Most of the stores won't admit that it's because of the

anti-fur people, but I believe this must be the case.

"The David Bailey film has had a momentous effect, so that now hardly any fashion editors will ever show furs."

Not all British magazines have taken a policy decision not to feature furs. *Vogue* and *Harpers & Queen* still take fur ads, although *Vogue* says that it now only accepts fur which has been ranch-raised rather than trapped. "We were the first magazine in the world to make this distinction," it says. *Harpers* says that fur ads have become less frequent over the past few years. Paula Piercey, advertisement director for *Harpers*, adds: "Many department stores have suffered from the anti-fur people, who think it's perfectly all right to throw fire bombs at people, and endanger human life. Stores have been attacked so often and lives threatened, that now they are frightened to sell fur."

Debenham's refused to confirm that its policy of not selling fur coats was in any way caused by virulent anti-fur campaigns directed at its stores. Spokeswoman Patricia Saxby says: "Over the past three years, public demand has declined to such an extent that running fur departments was no longer profitable. We do continue to sell fake furs."

Farrier Michael Hockley, whose family has been in the trade for three generations, says: "The past few years have been disastrous, but I think there will always be a demand at the better end of the market. We have just opened a new fur shop in Bond Street, and it's doing really well."

"World-wide, the fur trade is expanding," Lynx's Michael Glover says. "Retail sales in America are topping \$2 billion a year, and one fur company has a contract with *Dynasty*. We have had a huge impact in Britain, but furs continue to sell in other countries. We shouldn't be happy until there are no fur coats in existence anywhere."

Liz Hodgkinson

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MANCHESTER: 5 Ridgely Rd. 0161 254 9250  
KENWICK: Lake Rd. 0768 74881  
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## INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

## LONDON

★ **ALLO 'ALLO!** Stage version of the comedy series: Gordon Kane, Carmen Silvera and all the familiar faces. Palladium Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (01-437 7373). Tue: Oxford Circus. Until Jan 7, eve performances either 8.10.10pm/8.30-10.40pm, mat on various days either 3.30-5.30/5.30-7.40pm. Fri and Sat 8.30-10.40pm, mat Fri and Sat 3.30-7.40pm. Until Jan 7, 28.50-£14.50. From Jan 8 25.50-£14.50.

★ **BRIGADOON:** OK revival of Lerner and Loewe's misty Scottish musical. Victoria Palace, Victoria St SW1 (01-834 1817). Tue: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.40pm, mat Wed and Sat 3pm. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

★ **BUOGE:** Adam Faith with Anita Dobson in musical. Victoria Palace, Victoria St SW1 (01-834 1817). Tue: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.40pm, mat Wed and Sat 3pm. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

★ **HEINCEFORWARD:** Ian McKellen and Jane Asher in excellent Ayckbourn set in a future London serviced by willing robots. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9988). Tue: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.50pm. Tue: Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.40pm, mat Wed and Sat 3pm. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

★ **THE SNEEZE:** Marvellously funny and varied Chelchov/Francis pieces, eight in all: Howard Atkinson, Timothy West and Cheryl Campbell in peak form. Directed by Ronald Eyre. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 6404/041). Tue: Aldwych/Temple. Charing Cross/Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 7.30pm. Sat 5pm and 8.30pm; mat Wed 5pm. 22.50.

★ **300 OF TRANQUILITY:** Return of Sylvester McCoy's children's adventure through a menagerie of Heath Robinson automations. Lyric Studio Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Tue: Hammerstein. Tue-Fri 8.30-10.30pm. Sat mat 4.30-6pm. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

## TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

**LONDON:**  
1 (1) Who Framed Roger Rabbit  
2 (2) A Fish Called Wanda  
3 (3) High Spirits  
4 (4) Willow  
5 (5) Scrooged  
6 (6) Bird  
7 (7) Midnight Run  
8 (8) Like Father, Like Son  
9 (9) Au Revoir Les Enfants  
10 (10) Good Morning, Vietnam

Supplied by Screen International

**OUTSIDE LONDON:**  
1 Who Framed Roger Rabbit  
2 Willow  
3 Scrooged  
4 A Fish Called Wanda  
5 High Spirits  
6 Bird  
7 Midnight Run  
8 Like Father, Like Son  
9 Au Revoir Les Enfants  
10 Good Morning, Vietnam

Supplied by Screen International

**LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Queen's Theatre (01-734 1188). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-406 0072). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassador Theatre (01-836 8111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0800). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ The Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244). ★ Run for Your Life: Cricet Theatre (01-367 1117). ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8868).

## OUT OF TOWN

**BRISTOL:** ★ Beyond Therapy: Christopher Durang's sprightly comedy opens Bristol's first pub theatre. The Showboat, 323 Gloucester Road (0272 58679). Mon-Sat 7.30pm. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price. 22.50. Thurs mat, all seats half-price.

**MANCHESTER:** ★ Arms and the Man: Paul Herzberg plays the chocolate soldier in Casper Wrede's revival. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (061 833 8833). Mon-Thu 7.30pm. Fri and Sat 8pm. Mon-Thurs 22.50-23.50. Fri and Sat 23.50-24.50.

**SCARBOROUGH:** ★ The Turn of the Screw: A ghost story for Christmas. Stephen Maistrat's version of Henry James's uncanny tale. Stephen Joseph Theatre-in-the-Round, 1772-73 (01-836 9988). Tue-Sat 7.30pm. Sat mat 4pm. Chichester Fri Dec 23 until Dec 24. 24.80. Concessions, OAPs 23.80. Students and UBAs 22.80. (D)

**Also on national release**  
★ Advance booking possible

**AU REVOIR, LES ENFANTS (Pop):** Louis Malle's moving, semi-autobiographical drama, set in a provincial boarding school in the last months of the Second World War. Giuseppe Minerva leads the young, non-professional cast (107 min). Criterion (01-498 3737). Progs 1.30, 3.45, 6.30, 8.50.

**BIRD (1958):** Clint Eastwood's impressively mounted biography of Charlie Parker with Forest Whitaker as the legendary jazz saxophonist (181 min). Columbia (01-836 0891). Progs 1.25, 4.35, 7.55.

**CANNON FISH (1970):** Cannon Films' (01-370 2636). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 6.40, 8.50. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3388). Progs 3.30, 7.45.

**A FISH CALLED WANDA (1978):** The adventures of two scheming Americans (James Caan and Kevin Kline), an English barrister (John Gielgud) and an animal rights fanatic (Michael Palin), who own a fish called Wanda. Progs 1.25, 4.35, 7.55.

**GOOD MORNING, VIETNAM (1987):** Robin Williams in a military comedy about a GI sent to Vietnam to keep up the morale of the troops. Directed by Barry Levinson (121 min). Cannon Oxford Street (01-438 0810). Progs 2.00, 5.05, 8.10.

**SCROOGED (1982):** Seasonal comedy featuring Bill Murray as the TV executive determined to exploit Christmas to the full. Directed by Richard Donner (101 min). Cannon Baker St (01-836 9772). Progs 2.30, 5.30, 8.15.

**WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT (1988):** Energetic mixture of cartoons and real life. An animation director, Richard Williams, supplies a frantic array of "toon" characters, headed by Roger Rabbit. Bob Hoskins plays the dishevelled gunshop, Eddie Valiant (104 min). Columbia (01-836 0811). Progs 1.10, 4.15, 6.40, 8.50.

**WILLOW (1988):** Costly medieval fantasy from George Lucas, about an evil queen's reign of terror and an earnest knight's mission to save the infant prince. Directed by Ron Howard; with Val Kilmer, Joanne Whalley, Warwick Davis (126 min). Columbia (01-437 1234). Progs 12.30, 2.10, 5.10, 8.05.

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In tune: the choir of Kings College Cambridge prepare for their annual festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

## O come all ye faithful

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College, Cambridge is for many people as integral to Christmas as the Queen's speech. Over the decades Families have tuned their radios - and later switched on the television to hear the Christian message spelled out and the traditional carols sung by some of the purest voices in the land. This year sees the 70th anniversary of the first service instituted by Eric Milner-White, then Dean of Kings, who decided to revive a similar service conducted by Archbishop Benson whilst he was Bishop of Truro in 1880. Since 1918, there have been a few changes in the service - not the lessons, the "backbone" of the celebration - but in the choice of music. Though

Script by John Goss. Directed by Ealing Leonard Charles Critchley (108 min). Cannon Oxford St (01-836 0810). Progs 1.50, 4.55, 8.05.

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With Charles Grodin: directed by Martin Brest (105 min). Empire Leicester Square (01-800 0200). Progs 1.30, 4.05, 6.45, 9.20.

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## CONCERTS

★ **LEOPOLD, LEROY, ETC:** Richard Hickox conducts the LSO in such old favourites as Leopold Mozart's Toy Symphony, Larry Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, Rimsky-Korsakov's Christmas Eve Polka, the choruses and intermezzi from *Rosie & Gertie*. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-838 8881). 7.15-8.15pm. 24-£13.50.

★ **SQUEEZE:** South London wide-boys' Christmas knees-up. Barbican Academy, 211 Stockwell Road, London SW9 (01-328 1029). 7.30pm, 22.50.

★ **MOTHEAD:** The grandfathers of speed metal. Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081). 7.30pm, £7-£8.

★ **GARY GLITTER:** The seasonally active Baroque man, still the leader of rock's pantomime tendency. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4138). 8pm, 22.50.



## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Jane Rackham

## BBC1

- 6.30 *Cartoon* (b/w).  
6.40 *Leon Errol in Moving Vanities* (b/w).  
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Selly Magnusson and John Stapleton. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Regional news and travel reports at 7.37, 7.57 and 8.27.  
8.30 *The Flintstones* (r).  
9.00 *News and weather* followed by *The Canterbury Ghost*. Animated ghost story.  
9.25 *St Nicholas and the Children*. Two children have to journey through a haunted forest in order to find food. 9.50 *Henry's Cat* (r).  
10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Going for Gold* (r). 10.25 *Playboys*. 10.50 *Paddling* (r). 10.55 *Five to Eleven* with Judi Dench. News and weather followed by *A Children's Film Foundation* drama about a young Eskimo boy with the facility to generate vast amounts of electricity. Directed by Frank Capra.  
12.00 *News and weather* followed by *A Song For Christmas* introduced by Philip Schofield. 12.35 *Regional news and weather*.  
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis. 1.30 *Neighbours*. 1.55 *News and weather* followed by *One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing* (1979) starring Peter Ustinov, Helen Hayes and Derek Nimmo. A Walt Disney comedy about the search for a lost dinosaur. Directed by Robert Stevenson. (CeeFax). 2.35 *The Pink Panther* (1963). 3.45 *Cartoon Corner*. Young people's questions answered by Sophie Aldred, Stephen Johnson and children from Wharfedale Primary School. 4.50 *Brooks*. 4.55 *The Satellite Show*.

## BBC2

- 9.00 *Cartoon*.  
9.25 *Phil: Brewer's Millions* (1944, b/w) starring Dennis O'Keefe, Helen Walker and June Havoc. A man inherits \$8 million on condition that he spends a million of it within two months. Directed by Allen Dwan.  
1.00 *Cartoon*. 1.25 *Pie in the Sky* (r). 1.40 *Under the Sea*. The three musketeers parody *Goldorak* (r).  
2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Sport on Friday* which affords the chance of picking the sporting highlights of the year. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50.  
4.00 *Laurel and Hardy in Come Clean* (b/w). A 1931 short in which the two heroes save a lady of dubious morals from a wistful wife. Directed by James W. Home.  
4.30 *Phil: Brewer's Millions* (1935, b/w) starring Laurel and Hardy as two gypsies who find themselves guardians of a kidnapped young woman. Directed by James W. Home and Charles Rogers.

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## ITV/LONDON

- 5.30 *TV-am* begins with *The Morning Programme* introduced by Richard Keys and Kathy Rochford. 7.00 *News* followed by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Mike Morris and Kathy Rochford. 8.00 *News*. 9.00 *News and weather* with Timmy Mallett.  
9.25 *Lucky Ladders*. Game show hosted by Lennie Bennett. 9.55 *Thames News and weather*. 10.00 *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe* (r). 10.25 *Disney Cartoon*. The Oscar-winning *The Country Cousin*, made in 1938.  
10.40 *This Morning* - It's Christmas presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Includes national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by weather.  
12.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with zoology. 12.35 *Barbarians*. The concluding episode of the glossy soap.  
1.00 *News at One* with John Somerville. 1.25 *Thames News and weather*.  
1.30 *Cartoon*. Includes a report on the stress among clergyman at Christmas time. 2.00 *The Bill*. Omnibus edition (r). 2.25 *Home*. *Apple Cakes* (r).  
3.00 *What's My Line?* Odd occupations panel game introduced by Angela Ripston. This afternoon's guests are Billy Cooper, Roy Hudd, Simon Williams and John Johnson.  
3.25 *Thames News and weather*. 3.50 *Sore and Shaken*. Australian family drama series.  
4.00 *Crash a Grape* with Stu Francis. It's a party time and among those taking part are Jim Bowen, Debbie McGee, Susan Kelly and Paul Shane. 4.30 *Scooby Doo* (r).  
4.45 *Previews* visits *Ant and Dec* at the time when St Nicholas arrives in the town and Andy Peters meets children taking part in a special pantomime.

## CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 *Film: It's a Gift* (1934, b/w) starring W. C. Fields as a bankrupt, hapless store owner who sets up in order to buy an orange grove in California. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod. The Gingerbread Man. A children's musical comedy by David Wood, set on an antique kitchen dresser, performed by the Whirligig Theatre (r).  
12.30 *Business Day*. Financial and business news. 1.00 *News*. 1.30 *Cartoon*.  
2.00 *Film: Lord of the Rings* (1978). An animated version of Tolkien's tale set in a mythological world. Among those providing the voices are Christopher Guard and William Squire. Directed by Ralph Bakshi.  
4.30 *Film: The Grand Final* of the quiz show.  
5.00 *Monty & Mandy*. American comedy series.  
5.30 *Rediffusion*. Series on life at Newcastle University (r). (Crack).  
6.00 *News* starring Bernadette Peters and Christopher Reeve.

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## King of the singers

## TELEVISION CHOICE

● Asked in *Area* (BBC2, 9.00pm) to choose their favourite Nat King Cole song, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Harry Belafonte and Oscar Peterson all come up with a different answer. Which must say much for the breadth of Cole's appeal. As for Cole the man, no one in an ample 90-minute profile can find a word to say against him. He really does seem to have been as sweet and gentle and tolerant as his family and friends say he was. Sadly, he had an awful lot to be tolerant about. It is difficult to realize that only 30 years ago an entertainer as talented and dignified and non-political as Cole could arouse such racial hatred. He had the word "nigger" burnt into his lawn and in Birmingham, Alabama, he was roughed up on stage. His television show, though popular with the public, folded because the sponsors withdrew their support. The man from Max Factor explained that "the Negro didn't sell our lipstick." Said Cole, more in sorrow than anger: "Madison Avenue is afraid of the dark." Cole was bigger than all the insults and his career was as successful as any black entertainer's up to that time. Fortunately, much of it has been preserved on film and if the programme is stronger on narrative than analysis, the raw material is there in abundance. Footage of concert performances is supplemented by clips from a 1950s film, *Stardust*, and a delightful reminder of Cole's obviously reluctant appearance on *This Is Your Life*. The Cole family - brothers, sisters, widow Maria, daughter Natalie - is extensively interviewed. Though it happened nearly 24 years ago, his early death is still deeply felt.



Unforgettable: Nat King Cole, a popular entertainer and man who had to tolerate racial hatred and insults (BBC2, 9.00pm)

● Fritz Lang, whose dark and fatalistic vision first emerged in the German silent cinema of the 1920s and later (courtesy of Hitler) transferred to Hollywood, is celebrated with a season of films on Channel 4. It begins tonight with a contrasting double-bill of the 1926 science fiction epic *Metropolis* (10.50pm), in the restored and tinted version with a rock score by Giorgio Moroder, and the 1944 American thriller, *The Woman in the Window* (12.25am). To come are *M* (December 29), with Peter Lorre as the child murderer hunted down by his fellow criminals, Spencer Tracy in *Fury* (December 27) and Henry Fonda as the doomed gangster of *You Only Live Twice* (December 30). The concluding film is *Hangmen Also Die* (January 1) which was co-scripted by Benoit Bréchet.

Peter Waymark

## A sacrificial tapestry

## RADIO CHOICE

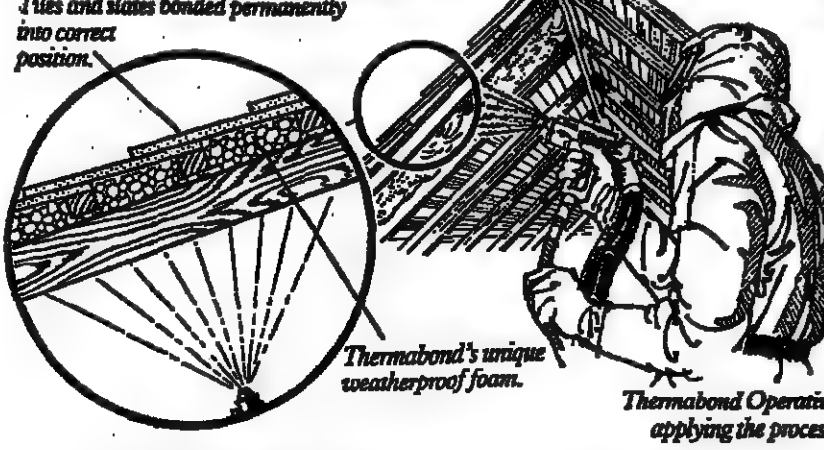
● Only Welsh-speakers will know how much of the texture of Saunders Lewis's original language in *Amyth* as *Amig* survives in Tony Corran's English version, *The Vow* (Radio 3, 9.20pm), but my Anglo-Italian ears picked up many subtle colours with strands of gold running through them. I kept thinking of some rich medieval tapestry, a pictorial process much assisted by the score written for the play by the Welsh composer William Mathias. And, of course, the play itself is set in medieval times, though its roots lie in Genesis and the story of Abraham's sacrificial test of faith. In *The Vow*, Saunders Lewis's Abraham as a knight (Ray Sturtz), one of the principal's most versatile actors, bound to another knight (Bernard Lloyd) by a compact forged on holy ground. You can infer



Ray Sturtz: one of our most versatile actors (R3, 9.20pm)

● In *The Vow*, there is a key sequence involving a vision of Raphael, Angel of God. We have on the authority of the Anglican priest and counsellor who contributes to *Dreaming: Doorway to Hidden Truth* (Radio 4, 11.00am) that there are 101 such visions in the Scriptures, as well as 131 dreams. Some of these are duly described during Rosemary Harrell's investigation into the nature of dream, ancient and modern, and how they can be interpreted. No explanation can be definitive in an area of experience where the criteria differ from person to person: warnings of death, revelations about a hidden past, the blinding light that shows a would-be suicide that there is love in the world. But the explanation of dreams that I liked most is the one that says they give us access to a continuing awareness of how we feel about ourselves and our lives.

Peter Davalle

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## WVF stereo and BWF (medium)

- 5.30 *Adrian John* 7.00 *Simon Mayo* 8.30 *Simon Bates* 12.30 *Newsweek* with Simon Bates 12.45 *Gary Davies* 3.00 *Steve Wright* 3.30 *Newsbeat* 5.45 *Singled Out* 7.00 *Jeff Young's Big Sing* 8.00 *Newsnight* 8.15 *Concert* featuring *Ensemble* 10.30 *The Friday Rock Show* with Tommy Vance 12.30-1.00am *Richard Skinner*.

## WVF stereo and BWF (medium)

- 4.30 *Steve Madden* 5.30 *Chris Stuart* 7.30 *Derek Jameson* 8.30 *Karl Bruce* 11.00 *Jimmy Young* 11.30 *Newsnight* 11.45 *Concert* featuring *Ensemble* 10.30 *The Friday Rock Show* with Tommy Vance 12.30-1.00am *Richard Skinner*.

## WORLD SERVICE

- All times in GMT.  
7.00 *World News* 7.30 *24 Hours* followed by *Financial News* 7.30 *Alpha* 7.50 *World News* 8.00 *Worlds of Faith* 8.15 *What's New* 8.30 *World News* 8.45 *Images of Britain* 8.50 *World News* 9.00 *Review of the British Press* 9.15 *The World Today* 9.30 *Financial News* 9.45 *Seven Stars* 10.00 *World News* 10.15 *World News* 10.30 *World News* 10.45 *World News* 11.00 *World News* 11.15 *World News* 11.30 *World News* 11.45 *World News* 12.00 *World News* 12.15 *World News* 12.30 *World News* 12.45 *World News* 1.00 *World News* 1.15 *World News* 1.30 *World News* 1.45 *World News* 1.55 *World News* 2.00 *World News* 2.15 *World News* 2.30 *World News* 2.45 *World News* 3.00 *World News* 3.15 *World News* 3.30 *World News* 3.45 *World News* 4.00 *World News* 4.15 *World News* 4.30 *World News* 4.45 *World News* 5.00 *World News* 5.15 *World News* 5.30 *World News* 5.45 *World News* 6.00 *World News* 6.15 *World News* 6.30 *World News* 6.45 *World News* 7.00 *World News* 7.15 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# The flight that ended in the streets of Lockerbie

## High wind forced a change of route

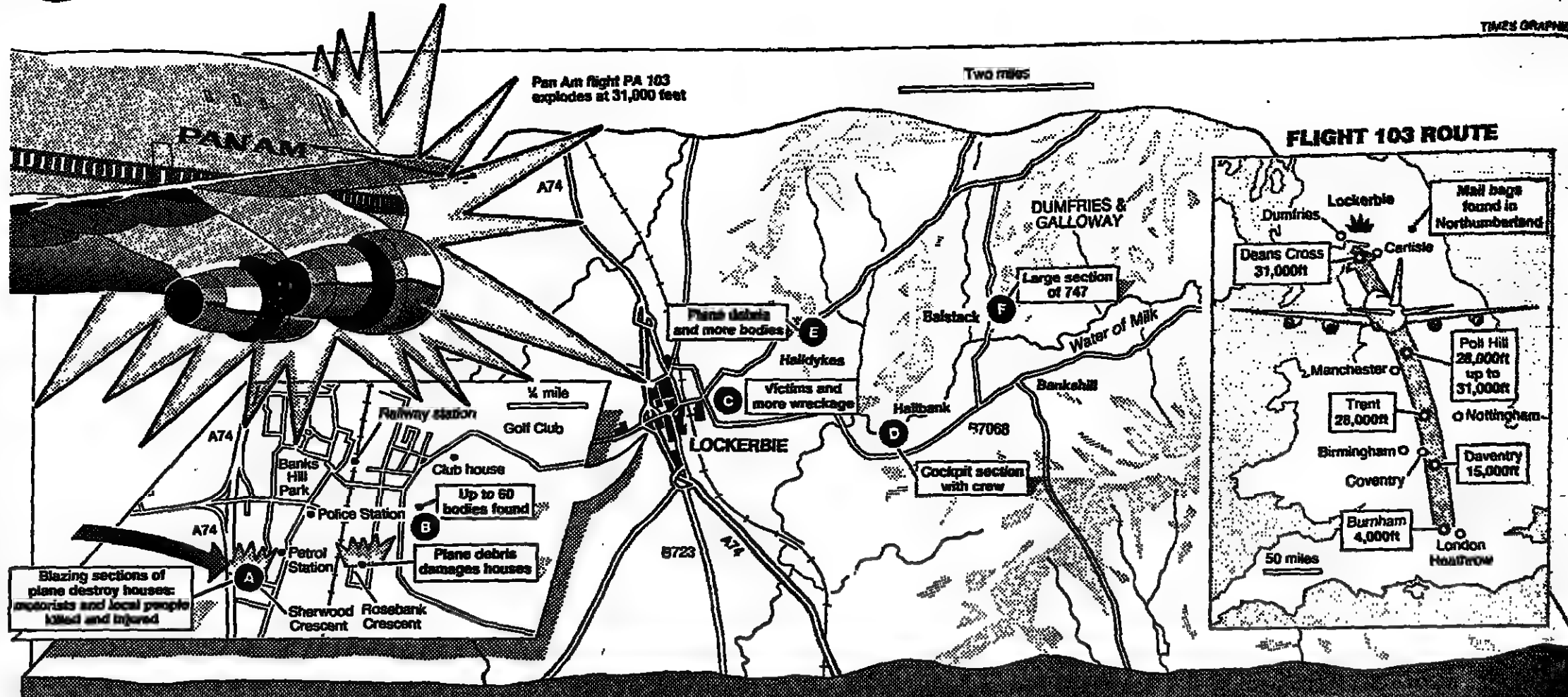
By Harvey Elliott  
Peter Davenport  
and Tony Dawe

A variation on Wednesday afternoon in the jet stream, the high-level winds which govern the routes followed by aircraft, took Pan Am flight PA 103 on its fateful journey over Lockerbie.

For nearly a week, the jet stream had been creating rough weather on the more northerly routes across the Atlantic favoured by the airlines, forcing them to route their American flights south-west from London.

The change in the weather gave pilots a choice and of seven flights which left Heathrow Airport, London, for America on Wednesday evening, three chose the southern route, while four elected to fly north. One of them was the Pan Am Boeing 747, called Clipper Maid of the Seas. Had it taken the southern route it would have been over the Atlantic when the bomb exploded.

The pilot filed his flight plan with air traffic control at 4 pm and took off from Runway 27 Right at 6.25 pm, 25 minutes later than scheduled. He soon banked right towards a navigation beacon at Burnham, north of Slough, and headed northwards through the heart of England. He passed over Daventry in the East Midlands at 15,000 ft, crossed Narborough, Leicestershire, at 25,000 ft and levelled off at 28,000 ft after passing the Trent beacon near Derby. The route he had flown countless times took him across the eastern side of Manchester and over Rochdale towards another beacon at Pole Hill.



From there he was given clearance by controllers to continue on airway Alpha One over the Lake District towards the Scottish Flight Information Region so that he reached 31,000 ft at Dean Cross on the Cumbrian coast. The first officer returned the radio to Scottish ATC based at Prestwick as the jumbo jet flew over Lake Windermere and then called the Shannon control centre in Ireland to obtain a routing across the Atlantic. Two minutes later, at 7.03 pm, the Scottish control asked if he had contacted Shannon successfully. There was no reply. Seconds later, controllers watched in horror as the blip disappeared for a few

seconds from their radar screen and then reappeared as several separate dots. The giant aircraft had been blown into several pieces by a huge explosion. The horror struck 20 miles north-west of Carlisle when the plane was over open country south-west of Lockerbie. But the strong westerly winds carried the wreckage towards the town. It took four minutes to fall, at 8,000 ft a minute. A large rear section of the 747 plunged into the south-western fringe of Lockerbie, digging a crater 40 ft deep and 150 ft long. The gash spread from the bank beside the A74 trunk road, where motorists

had been trapped in four cars and a van, into Sherwood Crescent, a string of bungalows. Many of them were razed to the ground. Police yesterday could not say how many of the residents had been victims of the flaming wreckage. Mr John Scott, a pensioner who survived with his wife, Jessie, said yesterday: "I heard the plane coming and at first I thought it was a gale. Something must have hit our ceiling, and then there was fire all around us." The next piece of the plane to hit the town landed close to a petrol station at the southern end of Main Street, causing a fireball which, some witnesses said, rose 300 ft in the air.

Mrs Marian Peel, a motorist, said: "I pulled into the garage and was getting petrol when I heard a rumble that sounded like thunder. It just got louder and louder and louder. There was a great big crash and a big burst of fire. Within seconds there was debris flying all over the place. I just left the car and ran like hell." Other parts of the 747 hurtled on, over the main railway line and into Rosebank Crescent. Police said the largest concentration of bodies, perhaps as many as 60, were found here with some lying near the golf course. One woman passenger was found, still strapped in her seat, in the

remnants of a shattered house roof. A Fiat and a Vauxhall 9 engine lay embedded in the street. More bodies and fragments of the plane were found in the Beech Grove district on the eastern fringe of the town but the most recognizable piece of wreckage lay a further three miles east on a grassy knoll overlooking Tundergarth Parish Church. There, the whole of the cockpit section of the plane lay on its side, the nose cone crumpled, but its name clearly visible. Members of the crew were found in the cockpit. Mr. Jimmie Beattie, aged 40, and his wife, Mary, aged 32, who live in a cottage on the

hill, had just got their children to bed when they heard the first impact. "The sky lit up and we could see bits flying through the air with smoke streaming off them," he said. "There was a large fireball which lit up the whole town, and we thought a chemical factory had blown up. We had time to get out of our chairs in the lounge and go to the window and we saw this large piece come through the air and land in a field about 40 yards away. "I went outside and saw a body lying in a hole in the ground. It was unrecognizable. There were three or four others near the cockpit, and a tangle of wires everywhere. There was nothing we could do for them." Half a mile away a body lay on a hillside and covered by a blanket. The remaining sizeable parts of the plane were found to the north, sections of twisted metal and more victims at Hallydikes and a large piece of the fuselage at Ballistock Farm. Smaller items from inside the plane were carried further afield on the strong winds and several were found around the village of Langholm. But the most far-flung debris was found 30 miles away in Northumberland; mail bags from the hold carried like balloons on the wind.

## Aerial view of devastation caused by the crashing plane

By Ronald Fairs

We traced the final miles of the Pan Am airliner's flight path by helicopter, the aerial view giving an even more terrible perspective to the spread and devastation of the tragedy.

The aircraft had crossed into Scotland over the Solway Firth in the Amber 2 air lane, when its flight ended with catastrophic suddenness.

The north coast of the century had slipped beneath the wings and with it the nuclear power station at Annan when contact was lost. Beyond the village of Middlebie, Dumfries and Galloway, the first signs of the disaster began to show, with a trail of debris spread in a broad line over the fields.

Then on the open ground of a golf course were the victims, their bodies scattered randomly. Police and soldiers

stood watch over the terrible scene. Each body had been covered but the strengthening wind had torn away many of the covers. Human figures, many of them naked, some grotesquely twisted, others as if they were simply asleep.

The gentle hill above Lockerbie had the look of a battlefield. In the town itself we could see the devastation wrought by the sudden avalanche of fuel and metal that fell on rooftops.

The crater marking the final resting place of a main section of fuselage was a deep, V-shaped pit of ripped earth with no recognizable signs of an aircraft or the houses that 24 hours earlier stood there.

The earth from the crater spilled out across the A74 where the fire-gutted remains of vehicles marked where yet more people had died. The

helicopter flew back over the golf course along another trail of death and debris. Blows of seats, cupboards torn apart, misshapen scraps of metal in all shapes and sizes, some carrying fragments of the Pan Am colours.

Then in a field near a hamlet, the nose section of the airliner lay on its side, the insignia, "Maid of the Seas", clearly visible - the only piece of wreckage that was recognizable.

Then back to Carlisle Airport and its intense activity, with aircraft flying in specialist investigators, government officials and military personnel. We were a group of fairly hardened newsmen but the ruthless violence of the crash and the carnage it had caused across the countryside left everyone stunned. We landed and no one spoke.

## Terrorist groups with motives for sabotage

Continued from page 1  
Organization delegation which met US diplomats in Tunis last week, that Mossad might try to discredit the PLO by mounting terrorist attacks.

British security services, which value their co-operation with Mossad, would regard any suggestion that it was responsible for the crash as preposterous. Indeed, Mossad is believed to have warned of an imminent terrorist attack at about the same time as the Helsinki warning.

Terror groups have often claimed responsibility for attacks with which they had no connection. A phone call to a news agency by a man saying he represented the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" may have been one such.

At one stage it seemed that delegates travelling to a ceremony in New York to bring peace to Angola and Namibia, including Mr R.F. "Pit" Botha, the South African Foreign

Minister, might have been the target, but it became clear he had always been booked on an earlier flight.

World revolution: Guardians of the Islamic Revolution is one of many extremist Muslim organizations which adhere fanatically to the principle of world revolution (Michael Evans and Nicholas Beaton write).

The Iran/Iraq war played a big role in generating revolutionary fervour. But when the ceasefire was signed in August, the focus of world attention switched to the Palestinian cause. Nevertheless, the disparate Iranian terrorist groups loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini were determined to continue with their anti-Western campaign.

The Guardians of the Islamic Revolution said the attack on the Pan Am jumbo was in retaliation for the shooting down by the US of an Iranian Airbus in the Gulf.

## US embassy issued warning about terrorist bomb plot

Continued from page 1

Mr Norman Shanks, the head of security at Heathrow Airport, also strenuously denied that a warning had been received.

He said: "It may have existed but we were never told about it and I have not seen it." The International Air Transport Association, the Geneva-based organization which represents all the airlines, said that British security services definitely knew of the threat to Pan Am flights in Europe.

A spokesman said: "The British security services and the Department of Transport (which is responsible for security at UK airports) knew about the warnings." Asked if more could have been done to safeguard the Pan Am flight, he replied: "How much more is enough? You are never going to be able to do the job of security to perfection."

An example of the warnings that did circulate emerged yesterday when a news agency revealed that a circular dated December 13 from William C Kelly, the Moscow embassy's administrative councillor, was posted on bulletin boards there. A copy was obtained on Thursday by The Associated Press.

It read: "Post (the embassy) has been notified by the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion that on Dec 5, 1988, an unidentified individual telephoned a US diplomatic facility in Europe and stated that sometime within the next two weeks there would be a bombing attempt against a Pan American aircraft flying from Frankfurt to the United States."

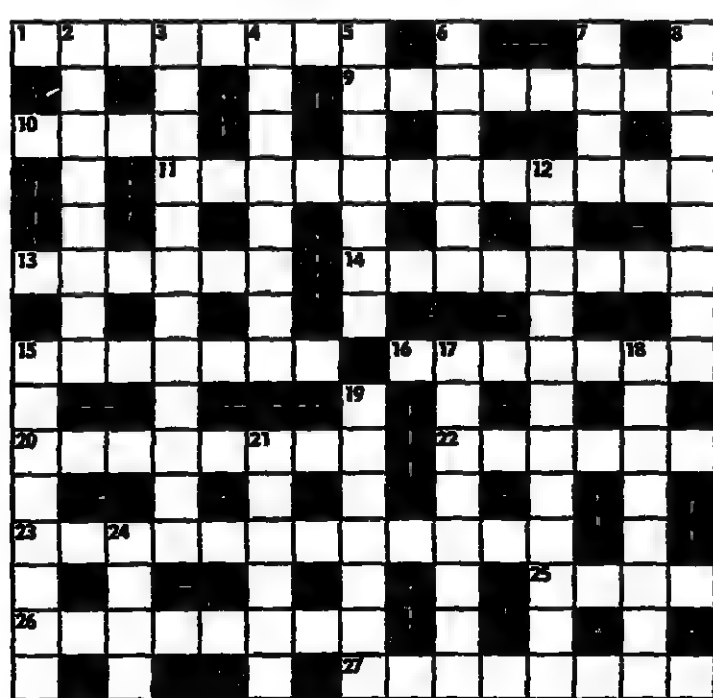
It continued: "The FAA reports that the reliability of the information cannot be assessed at this point, but the appropriate police authorities have been notified and are pursuing the matter. Pan Am has also been notified."

"In view of the lack of confirmation of this information, post leaves to the discretion of individual travellers any decisions on altering personal travel plans or changing to another American carrier."

Last night's Pan Am 103 flight from Frankfurt to London was delayed for more than an hour because of rigorously imposed security checks on baggage and passengers.

In Lockerbie, the difficulty facing police in confirming the fate of 17 missing villagers was that a 30 ft deep crater now existed where their houses once stood. However, the 13 adults and four children are presumed dead.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,860



### ACROSS

- Fairness, possibly, of unembellished letter (8).
- He pictured life in Pluto (8).
- Sabbath - day in Germany that is all male (4).
- Show skill on Hampshire's turns (12).
- Pursue career (6).
- Fusion shown by officer-type in social dancing (8).
- Piquetted and minced round yard (7).
- One who buys a second receipt (7).
- Bowing and twirling the baton is easy at first (8).
- Draughtsman gets back pay (6).
- Green's entertainment with internal letters (8,4).
- Common food of swallows (4).
- One who knocks off a crown? (8).
- Close to arena, where bookies stand with arrogance? (8).

### DOWN

- Poisonous element when I'm embraced by triumvir (8).
- Take deep breath before walking or playing for the first time (5-7).
- Warranted postponement of piano recital arrangement (8).
- Puck is dropped in it, show being cancelled (4-3).
- A train off the rails in the capital (6).
- Mahler's third without the opening longing? (4).
- Kind of screen role that turns up and lets actor down (4-4).
- Greyling? (4-4).
- Gas layer about dry - go another way (8).
- How part of plan is shown up (8).
- Drink made from the nettle? (7).
- Worker over the border in N Ireland (6).
- An ancient section of a diagonal (4).

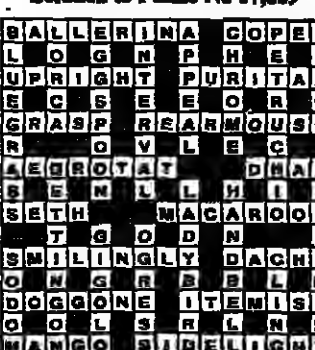
### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

- SONTAG**  
a. Substantiation  
b. A woman's cape  
c. A children's game
- CALCANET**  
a. A jewelled necklace  
b. A hunting net  
c. A fish's inner lining
- PELEJAM**  
a. Early fountain pen  
b. Smoked gammon  
c. A type of bit
- ESTRAPE**  
a. A short sword  
b. A horse's rearing  
c. A mischievous adventure

Answers on page 18

### Solution to Puzzle No 17,859



### WEATHER

Cloudy, mild start for most of England and Wales, but rain, heavy at times, will spread quickly south, to clear by evening. Brighter showery weather, already into Northern Ireland and western Scotland, will sweep across the rest of Scotland and northern England by midday. Mild in the south at first. Windy in most areas with gales in the north. Outlook: Unsettled, then mild.

### ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light
Alaska	14-18	10-15	10-15	Light

### AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light

### THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light

### AM



### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 13C (59F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Rain: 6 pm to 8 pm, 0.4 in. Sun: 8 pm to 6 pm, 0.4 in. Sea level, 6 pm, 1009.2 millibars, 28.55 in.

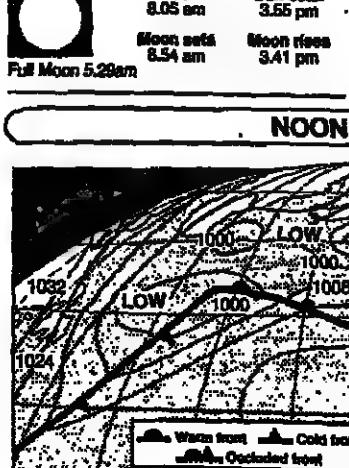
### TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be closed at the following times today: Noon and 1 pm.

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.25 pm to 7.25 am  
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.45 am  
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.14 am  
Manchester 4.22 pm to 7.25 am  
Preston 4.53 pm to 7.50 am

### PM



### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (52F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 8 pm to 6 pm, 0.21 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Farnham, South Yorkshire, 13C (55F). Lowest day temp: Lough, Scotland, 9C (48F). Highest night temp: Grimsby, Lincolnshire, 0.26 in. Highest sun: Aberdeen, 3.5 in.

### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a. cloud; b. rain; c. sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light
London	12-15	10-15	10-15	Light

### NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Crown Industrial bid for Cundell lapses

Cundell Group, the Chesham, Essex, packaging company caught up in a three-way battle, says the bid for the company made by Crown Industrial Holdings has lapsed. At the closing date, there had only been acceptances by 31.1 per cent of its equity for the Crown offer, of which 24.4 per cent had been part of an irrevocable commitment.

Crown initially bid £28.8 million in cash for Cundell in November, upsetting an earlier agreement between Cundell and Ferry Pickering to merge. Later, Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper packaging group, stepped in with a higher offer for Cundell, offering 185p a share against Crown's 160p offer and topping the 138p value of the Pickering merger. Cundell later called off the Pickering plans, and said it would recommend the offer from Smurfit.

## Erskine buys US dealer

Erskine House is buying Edgemont Sales, a Sharp copier dealer in Los Angeles with annual sales of more than \$7 million (£3.9 million). An initial payment of \$3.4 million has been made. Further payments - up to a maximum of \$6.5 million - may be made, depending on future profits.

## Rolls stake for Japanese

Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries of Japan has bought a 5 per cent stake in the RB211-524 aero engines being developed by Rolls-Royce. This follows a 4 per cent investment by Kawasaki. It is hoped that the engines will power over half of the world's airliners by the end of the century.

## Cambridge sale plan

Cambridge Instruments, the scientific equipment manufacturer whose interim profits fell by 17 per cent to £2.29 million, has confirmed that it is selling its industrial division. The business, based in Penge, South London, makes timers and industrial relays and is no longer a natural fit with the rest of the company. It had a turnover of £6.4 million and operating profit of £51,000 for the year ending March 31.

The group said yesterday that talks are in progress but if the deal is not agreed by March 31 1989, the operation will be closed. At present there are about 200 employees in the division. The shares dipped 6p to 42p on the news.

## Trust lifts its dividend

Bankers' Investment Trust is paying a fourth interim dividend of 0.66p, making 1.92p for the year to end-October, against 1.6p. Total income was £7.1 million (£6.06 million). Earnings per share were 2.07p (1.62p) and the net asset value was 89.9p (79.7p). The board says it is ready for buying opportunities.

## Same again at Radiant

Radiant Metal Finishing, the metal finisher and property developer, is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 1p a share on operating profits of £164,000 (£110,000) for the six months ended August. Turnover rose from £643,000 to £725,000. Net earnings for the interim period were 7.82p (5.26p) a share.

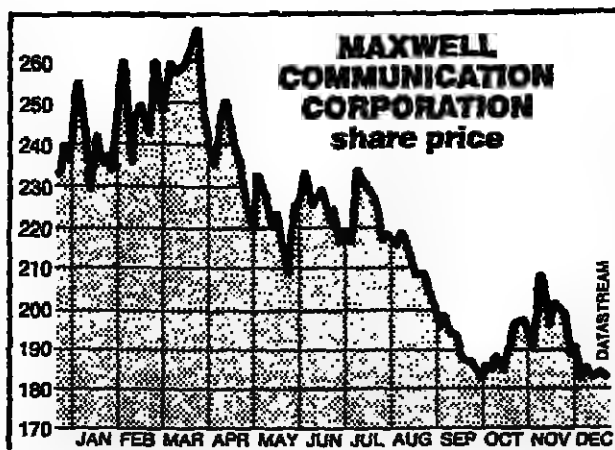
## US deals for Davy

Davy Corporation is acquiring two companies in the United States for a total of \$2.95 million (£1.64 million), to be funded by the placement of one million Davy shares at 164p each. Davy, expanding the activities of Lloyd's British Testing, its engineering services subsidiary, is buying Crane Service Corporation, and Holst & Crane Enterprises of Houston, Texas.

Crane Services will cost \$2.5 million, of which \$1.5 million is payable immediately, and Holst & Crane Enterprises will cost \$450,000, also payable immediately. Davy has placed 1 million of its shares to fund the deal with institutional clients. Davy shares were unchanged at 164p.

## Strategy blot on the MCC picture

TEMPUS



Robert Maxwell is strapped for cash. Few things can be said with any certainty about the affairs of his eponymous quoted vehicle, Maxwell Communication Corporation, but his need to repay by August \$1 billion (£556 million) of debts incurred in the Macmillan and Official Airlines Guide purchases is one.

So the £265 million management buyout of BPCC, his commercial printing operation, betrays signs of a deal arranged in haste. It represents part of the new Maxwell direction, out of "light" electronic, educational and general book publishing.

Mr Maxwell's growing credibility problem in the City is reflected by the impossibility of obtaining a firm broker's profits forecast - even Alexander Leung & Cruickshank, his own broker, is unwilling to give a figure.

A charitable estimate would suggest pre-tax profits of £300 million in the year to end-March 1991, once all the dust has settled, the two big acquisitions have been consolidated and disposals made. This implies a miserable prospective earnings multiple of little more than five times.

This multiple is unlikely to shift upwards much, given the market's belief that any improvement could trigger another hefty rights issue.

Against this, BPCC was sold on an exit multiple of 13 times.

es, if the £30 million of properties and £6.3 million of assets retained are added back. This implies at least some dilution of earnings after the sale.

Mr Maxwell's decision to buy back a near-25 per cent stake in BPCC has also raised eyebrows. He is paying just £21.6 million for a quarter of the reconstructed company that could eventually be floated at about £400 million.

A further complication for MCC is Mr Maxwell's decision to move his financial year-end back by three months to end-March, even though Macmillan, OAG and his own company previously shared the same January to December accounting period.

The effect is that MCC will not have to provide full accounts until the summer and will not therefore show the effect of the acquisitions on the balance sheet until disposals have been made.

The shares have slumped from a high of 395p last autumn to 185p, up 3p, yesterday. Even at this low level they cannot be recommended until Mr Maxwell gives more indication of his strategy.

## Tootal

Tootal looks set for another assault by the Australian entrepreneur Mr Abraham Goldberg, who popped up with a 9.2 per cent stake in the textiles group. Given the furious scrap when Mr Goldberg launched the previous bid via

his textiles group Entrad, the next one could be spectacular.

It is no secret that Mr Goldberg's failure to reach an accommodation with Tootal, even though he was briefly on the board, led to a distinctly cool relationship on both sides. When Entrad eventually disposed of its holding many believed that the encounter was far from over.

Since then Entrad has restructured its operations radically and is now an investment rather than a trading company. Intriguingly, the stake in Tootal appears to have been bought on behalf of Mr Goldberg and his family rather than through a corporation.

The eventual intentions of the boarding party remain deeply unclear. Entrad is capitalised at a mere fraction of Tootal's £315 million, and it is doubtful whether Mr Gold-

berg's personal wealth exceeds that of his main vehicle. So the first fine assumption is that the stock is in play and that the Australian interests are hoping to flush out a bidder.

Tootal says that it has had no contact of any kind with Mr Goldberg or his representatives. There was no invitation to talks or intimations of a possible offer. Though Tootal has been monitoring its register carefully in the light of bid speculation in the stock market, it did not even have to bother with serving Section 212 disclosure notices. Mr Goldberg simply owned up.

Any bidder would have to fight, for Tootal is in good shape after its rights issue earlier this year even though outside profit forecasts have been downgraded slightly in anticipation of weaker consumer spending.

Under the guidance of the new chief executive Mr Geoffrey Maddrell, Tootal has concentrated on a simple policy. It been selling no-core businesses, buying from the cheapest sources of supply, mostly in the Far East and beefing up its distribution and marketing effort.

At 121p up 7p Tootal shares are not cheap on trading grounds. Holders should sit tight.

## ICI

The passing of 1988 is unlikely to be a source for much regret so far as investors in many of Britain's biggest and best managed companies are concerned. In particular, businesses which suffer from a strong pound have been treated harshly by the stock market. ICI is a prime case.

For two years now, ICI has been losing ground relative to the market despite a reasonable performance in profit terms and a good deal of restructuring which should benefit the group mightily.

Long gone are the days when ICI's shares were regarded as a raging buy whenever its yield approached 6 per cent. These days, even the prospect of a 6.6 per cent return in 1989 fails to stir would-be buyers.

But long-term seekers after under-rated stocks have a good deal to savour at ICI. In

the short-term, the setback which appears to be discounted in the share price is unlikely to appear, unless a bout of currency turmoil occurs.

A trio of leading broking teams, at Fleming, Kleinwort Benson and BZW, find little to disagree about here. Their estimates for the current year are bunched in the £1.45 billion to £1.48 billion range, compared with £1.3 billion last time. And the three are broadly together in anticipating profits of between £1.35 billion and £1.6 billion for 1989.

On this basis, the shares are changing hands on a multiple of about 7 times 1989 earnings with a prospective yield pushing 7 per cent. This bargain basement rating appears to take little account of ICI's pre-emptive moves to prepare for slower growth during the 1990s in the basic businesses of general chemicals, petrochemicals and plastics.

Meanwhile, the quality of ICI's income stream is improving with a number of new drugs coming through to the market in the next few years. Fleming's pharmaceuticals team says that the outlook for this division has not looked so promising since the launch of Temerin, the heart drug. This alone should help ICI to escape from a house-builder's market rating. The stock should get up a head of steam when the peak of domestic interest rates is in sight.

## Steel fight set to continue

By Colin Narborough

The West German steel industry is determined to continue its legal battle over £930 million of "illegal" and "excessive" aid to British Steel despite the political reverse the German mills have suffered this week concerning aid to Italy.

The West German Steel Association of Dtl strongly condemned the European Economic Community decision to allow a large payment of fresh aid to Finsider-Iva, the loss-making, state-owned Italian steelmaker. It expressed "deep disappointment" that Bonn had also decided to end its lone opposition to the latest EEC aid decision.

British Steel and Finsider

have been the twin targets of the largely private-sector German steel industry's campaign to force an end to subsidies in the EEC.

A statement from the West German Steel Association said the decision by the EEC ministers was a "clear warning signal" that aid was still a tool of the European steel industry, despite all the declarations to the opposite effect from politicians.

"The credibility of European steel policy has been shattered by this to a hitherto unknown degree," the association said.

EEC internal trade ministers agreed yesterday to an aided overhaul of Italy's state-owned steel industry after Bonn dropped its opposition

to the plan. Dr Axel von Plagemann, spokesman for the West German Steel Association, said the Finsider decision would not deter his organization from its legal action against the European Commission over the aid paid to British Steel prior to privatization.

The case, brought before the European Court in July, is still in its written procedure stage, but a judgement is expected next autumn, possibly before investors are due to pay the second instalment on their BS shares on September 26.

British Steel is confident that it will not be forced to repay any of the disputed aid, but gave a warning in its prospectus that it could give no assurances.

## Slowdown in exports for wool textiles

Wool textile exports slowed in October, the £45.9 million in shipments being a decrease of 4.2 per cent compared with the same month last year.

But exports by value in the first ten months of this year are still up nearly 3 per cent at £507 million, said the Bradford National Wool Textile Export Corporation. Exports are expected to set a record in value in the full year.

Exports of cloth, yarn and combed wool to EEC markets in the ten months were up 8 per cent. Cloth sales have risen 14.4 per cent in the period to £201.9 million, a 6 per cent increase in volume terms.

## Brierley 'no longer interested in bank'

Wellington (Reuters) - Brierley Investments Ltd is no longer interested in buying the New Zealand government's 84 per cent holding in Bank of New Zealand, according to Mr Paul Collins, group chief executive.

The decision follows the government's rejection on Wednesday of all bids because they were too low. Mr Collins is reported in a newspaper article as saying the company would not make another bid.

Analysts said the bank, which has assets of NZ\$17.6 billion (£6.2 billion), would fetch the government around NZ\$1 billion.

A BIL spokesman said it

had "given its best shot" in the tender and would not resubmit a bid unless conditions became more favourable.

The bank is one of several state assets being sold to raise funds to repay foreign debt. The government still intends to sell its holding but did not specify when.

Sir Ron Brierley, the BIL chairman, is also chairman of BNZ but has stepped aside because of a potential conflict of interest.

Mr Rob Campbell, the bank's acting chairman, said BNZ would prefer either an early resolution of the situation or a postponement of the sale for a definite period.

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This week's  
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The Times will see you happily through the festive season this year. The Sunday Times Magazine has a special Christmas section with games for the whole family and a Christmas songbook.

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MONDAY DECEMBER 26 1988

30p

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New Bill sanctions studies into UK companies for foreign regulators

# Wider inquiry powers for DTI

By Colin Narborough  
Surprise provisions in the new Companies Bill will enable the Government to launch inquiries into companies and institutions in Britain in response to demands from foreign regulators, even when no domestic case for investigation exists.

Under reciprocal arrangements, foreseen with key countries such as the United States and Japan, the British authorities will be able to request similar assistance. Failure to comply with such investigations in Britain could mean up to six months in jail. False or misleading evidence could mean up to two years in prison.

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, yesterday said the new provisions were an "important development" that would meet the regulatory demands of the future in an increasingly globalized market.

Despite existing information-swapping pacts with other countries, the Department of Trade and Industry at present has no powers to demand information from companies in Britain, unless there are domestic grounds for requiring the information to be produced.

Information-swapping arrangements with the US played a key role in uncovering the Guinness affair in 1986 and regulators have recognized the growing need for monitoring and enforcement operations to straddle frontiers.

Mr Maude said most firms and institutions have been ready to assist the regulators under the present system, but this would not be adequate in future. "What is needed is a means of gathering information at the early stages of an investigation in order to put together a case."

"The new power in the Bill is designed to meet this need, allowing the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, if asked for assistance by an overseas regulator, to conduct an investigation in broadly similar fashion to domestic investigations, or appoint others to do so."

Mr Maude said there are safeguards for information covered by banking confidentiality, and any information obtained is protected in the same way as that obtained in domestic investigations.

Other elements of what Mr Maude called a "necessarily miscellaneous" Bill, largely made known ahead of publication, include provisions to ease the vetting of most takeovers, while increasing the transparency of share ownership.

## Spanish lift holding in Royal Bank

By Richard Thompson  
Banking Correspondent  
Banco de Santander, the Spanish bank, has raised its holding in Royal Bank of Scotland by 5 per cent to 10 per cent, worth around £100 million. The purchase makes Banco de Santander the largest shareholder in Royal Bank.

## Kitty Little shares slide 10p on warning of lower profits

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Retail Affairs Correspondent  
Shares in Kitty Little, the decorative fragrance group which came to Unilever Securities Market last April, fell by 10p to 83p as the company issued a warning that profits would be lower than last year.

Mr Graham Webster, the chairman, said the volume of sales over Christmas had been generally disappointing and the apparent recovery reported by some retailers this week had not been evident at the Stoke-on-Trent company.

The group had hoped that its acquisition of Sharden, the toilet bag manufacturer, and its recent entry into the perfume market, would help to increase sales this year.

Mr Webster said yesterday: "It is expected that the turnover level for the year to January 31, 1989 will be similar to that achieved in the previous year while costs have been increased in anticipation of higher sales."

Kitty Little has also set up a joint venture with Al Nyman, which is based in America, to be called Magnivision. This will market non-prescription reading glasses in Britain.

The spectacles, which are in effect two magnifying glasses joined together, will retail for £12.95 a pair.

They will be supplied through chemists and department stores without prescription when the Health and Medicines Act, which encompasses new charges for eye

tests and dental care, becomes law probably next April.

## London Life may fight on

By Maria Scott  
London Life may try to appeal against the Appeal Court's ruling that the vote in favour of its plan to merge with Australian Mutual Provident was invalid. The mutual insurance company was refused permission to appeal to the House of Lords when the full Appeal Court judgement on its October meeting and vote was issued on Wednesday.

## A most curious position

One of the most curious positions in a British boardroom is to be a non-executive director. It is generally, although by no means universally, agreed that non-executive directors are in some way a "good thing." They bring breadth of vision to the boardroom, they bring in, for a few days a year, talent and experience which could not be afforded full time. They bring to the table the bankers' view, the City view and, perhaps, even the customers' view.

## Appeal over early water deals

By Colin Narborough  
The water companies are to appeal against the High Court ruling on Wednesday that will allow the public sector water authorities to buy into them before privatization.

## Avdel bid battle near stalemate

The fight for Avdel, the industrial fastenings producer, inched towards stalemate last night as Textron, the white knight counter-bidding against Banner Industries, claimed 42.9 per cent share-holders' support.

## Drexel to face lawsuits after guilty insider plea

From Bailey Morris, Washington  
The guilty plea by Drexel Burnham Lambert, the US securities house, in the biggest insider trading case in Wall Street history is only the beginning for the beleaguered firm which not only faces a record \$650 million (£361.51 million) fine but also a wave of potential lawsuits.

## God to Mammon and back

From one God to another is how Stephen Hargrave, aged 33, a former financial journalist is describing his latest career move. Hargrave left the employ of the *Evening Standard* last week, where, during the past two years, he has established a name as its stock market correspondent, and he is now, I hear, going to be working alongside Lord Stevens, as head of planning at United Newspapers, his £750 million media company which has titles ranging from *The Yorkshire Post* to *Exchange & Mart*. Hargrave's description of himself is indeed apt, since he graduated from Oxford with a first in Theology, changed his mind about becoming a vicar and went instead into fund management in the City for seven years, working for both Warburg and then Save & Prosper. "It's a newly-created position," Hargrave tells me, "and I will be looking for bolt-on acquisitions and areas for diversification." Hargrave, who will be reporting directly to United chairman Stevens, adds, "I've spent 10 years watching businesses, either as a fund manager or journalist, and now it's time to get some experience of actually doing it for myself." He hasn't totally turned his back on the world of writing, however. His first novel, *London London*, a comedy about a 30-year-old stockbroker, has just been approved by a libel lawyer and is due to be published by Barrie & Jenkins on May 25.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Rolflein returns to P&D

While his ex-employees seem to have formed themselves into a stylish luncheon club (as detailed in yesterday's *City Diary*), Hector Rolflein, the new head of equities at stockbroker Phillips & Drew, tells me that not everyone leaves it for good. Speaking as the man who himself once ran the firm's New York office, he is especially delighted to be able to

## Leaving the herd

The head of gilt-edged sales and trading at Merrill Lynch, one Frank Leonard — no known relation of mine — has, I hear, resigned after a disagreement over policy. Leonard, aged 40, was headhunted to join the giant US securities house in the summer of 1986 and became a director of its bond division, Merrill Lynch Government Securities. Prior to that he spent more than 20 happy years with Phillips & Drew — becoming that firm's youngest ever partner at the age of 26. "It has been a very amicable parting," he told me yesterday from his Surrey home. "But I was unhappy about some of the policy decisions that had been taken, involving gilt and fixed interest markets, and I asked to be released from my contract. They attempted to dissuade me at first but then agreed." Leonard, who left Merrill three days ago, refuses to discuss the dispute in any further detail, but tells me that he does not yet have a job to go to. "I would like to find a similar position somewhere else," he says. "But not everyone is looking to add to their resources right now." But somehow I don't think that Leonard, for one, should be left on the job market for very long.

## Mine host

An intriguing advertisement in the latest edition of the *Mining Journal* reads: "For sale, in whole or in part, mining company with gold production. Significant profit/revenue potential. Contact Luxembourg (352) 660843." Anxious to pick up a little something in my last minute Christmas shopping, I telephoned Luxembourg, but



## Seat talk

If you know anyone with small children, a child's car seat could make a good Christmas present — as prices may rise next year. For, according to industry talk, Britain, which has 36 per cent of the British child seat market is negotiating to buy Kangal — with 34 per cent of the same market — from Allied Signal. Since it would give them more than 70 per cent of the market, it must be one for the OFT...

Carol Leonard

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23rd December, 1988







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No.	Company	Group	Cash at Year
1	Staveland	Industrial S-Z	
2	Staveland	Industrial S-Z	
3	Vesta	Industrial S-Z	
4	Stam	Industrial S-Z	
5	Allied Irish	Industrial S-Z	
6	Stirling Systems	Industrial S-Z	
7	First Nat Finance	Industrial S-Z	
8	Countrywide	Industrial S-Z	
9	Jersey (J) & Sons	Industrial S-Z	
10	Ross	Industrial S-Z	
11	Radient Metal	Industrial S-Z	
12	Radient Metal	Industrial S-Z	
13	Radient Metal	Industrial S-Z	
14	Radient Metal	Industrial S-Z	
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# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 12. Dealings end today. Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 25)

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# Unigate rises to near peak for year on £1bn bid talk

29,774.61. Prices improved on the morning's lacklustre performance during the afternoon to end firmer.

● **Frankfurt (Renter)** – The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,324.15, up 3.14 points, or 0.2 per cent.

Dealers have been forecasting a bid in the food sector for some time — no doubt prompted by the sizeable holdings that have been acquired by foreign predators in companies such as Cadbury Schweppes, up 5p at 327p, Ranks Hovis McDougall, 1p firmer at 339p and Northern Foods, 2p better at 291p.

**ALPHA**

Vol '000 Vol '000

**STOCKS** — — — — —

Vol '000      Vol '000

Christmas. Dixons, the high street electrical retailer, was also helped by suggestions that the company will figure prominently in New Year share tips. The price touched 128p before closing 3p better at 127p.

Lowndes Queensway, the furniture and carpet retailer

**Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster**

TSR	140	1%	5	7	11	12
(1986)	100	11	12	-	14	3
	110	3	5%	8	4	6%
	120	1	3	4	12	14
Series Feb Apr Jul Feb Apr Jul						
Ledbrook	390	47	-	2%	-	-
(426)	450	34	32	42	10	12
	480	73%	22	36	37	-
Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug						
Birk Acre	420	30	36	50	12	23
(491)	460	10	18	30	26	47
	500	5	9%	18	73	79
BAH	240	39	42	44	14	3
(288)	250	18	26	36	5	7

**— TRADITION**

**First Dealings**      **Last Dealings**  
**December 19**      **January 6**  
Call options were taken out on 22/1  
Rue, Lonsdale, Alfred Lyons, Wimpey. No  
City Holdings.  
Put & Call from Wis.

	Unemployment	1970	1971	1972	1973
U.S.	4.70	40.58	52.72	5.97	
U.S.	480	19	31	47	21
U.S.	500	18	29	37	57
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis					
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
U.S.	250	42	-	1%	-
U.S.	202	34	27	35	5
U.S.	300	11	13	21	13
U.S.	302	8	-	1	-
U.S.	143	17	22	14	24
U.S.	100	41	70	9	9
U.S.	130	10	12	15	8
U.S.	143	6	7	10	13
U.S.	160	2	24	-	30
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis					

## NAL OPTIONS

Truce

La  
roff

21%		Pernod	74%	74%
28%	12%	PepsiCo	39%	39%
29%	12%	Pfizer	31%	31%
30%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
31%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
32%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
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45%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
46%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
47%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
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80%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
81%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
82%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
83%	15%	Pineapple	69%	69%
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TOP ISSUES	
Hammco#1 (65p)	143 +3
Hong Kong Estate	100
Transamerica (10p)	15 1/2 +3
Meero Radio (110p)	131
Nat'l Telecom (120p)	137
Planning Research	108 -3
Porkington Pons (180p)	168
Recall Telecom (170p)	176 +1
Riv (110p)	112
Sandell	118
Secure Trust	147
Unit Group (140p)	147 +2
Venture Plant	95
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Haydon Macalister N/P	15 +3
Leas J N/P	8
Rae Mable N/P	1 -1/2
Woodgranges N/P	

(Italics = price in brackets)

Figure 1 is a line graph showing the percentage of total sample for each age group (0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+) across different years (1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020). The y-axis ranges from 0 to 100. The x-axis shows years from 1980 to 2020. The 0-14 age group shows a steady decline from approximately 25% in 1980 to 10% in 2020. The 15-24 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 15% in 1980 to 20% in 2020. The 25-34 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 35-44 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 45-54 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 55-64 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 65-74 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 75+ age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020.

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FOOTBALL: ITALIAN VERSATILITY PROVES TOO MUCH FOR SCOTLAND TO HANDLE AS ROXBURGH'S MEN AGAIN LOSE THEIR WAY IN MIDFIELD

# Dubious decision has no bearing on Scottish demise

From Roddy Forsyth  
Perugia

Italy ..... 2  
Scotland ..... 0

Scotland found the versatility and technical ability of Italy's developing World Cup final squad too great to be contained yesterday in a match which suggested that the Scottish coach, Andy Roxburgh, will continue to be frustrated by the lack of genuine class available to him in midfield.

If the new cap, Ferguson, of Rangers, was capable enough, McStay, of Celtic, was deeply disappointing. Although Scotland conceded an unfortunate penalty, there could be no real dispute about the merit of the result.

On an unseasonably mild and sunny afternoon, the start of proceedings was delayed for several minutes to allow a crowd of 25,000 to fill the trim Curi stadium. The usual Italian accompaniment of firecrackers and hooters attended the opening formalities, but there was a solemn pause in the cacophony for the observation of a minute's silence because of the air disaster at Lockerbie.

When the game eventually got underway there was an immediate flurry of activity around the goalmouth. Scotland showed first when MacLeod revealed uncertainty in the Italian defence with a high free kick which Berti muffed with a hazardous pass back to his goalkeeper.

Italy's reply was a corner on the right from which Maldini and then Senigaglia delivered shots, the second of which was well clutched by Gormon in the Scottish goal. Ten minutes elapsed with little further in-

cident; then Scotland created a clear scoring opportunity.

From a quickly-worked free kick, McStay tried to force his way into the Italian penalty area, only to find his progress halted by a wall of defenders, but the ball broke towards Aitken, whose shot from 25 yards forced Zenga to dive to his left and concede a corner.

The Scots enjoyed the principal share of possession, but provided little in the way of promising supply for Gallacher or his forward partner, Johnston, who was left limping after a series of tough challenges from Bergomi. As the half hour approached, the Italians at last began to impose themselves on the contest, which increased abruptly in pace as a result.

Serna forced Gormon to save his close-range attempt, and then Giannini was unfortunate when he dismissively swept past MacLeod to deliver a dipping left-foot drive which swung over Gormon, only to bounce off the crossbar.

Giannini created further menace 10 minutes later when he emerged from the edge of the penalty area to strike a forceful drive which was taken at full stretch by Gormon.

Scotland survived further hazard to reach half-time unscathed, but within two minutes of the restart they fell behind after an innocuous incident which resulted in a penalty. Giannini's cross appeared to catch Berti off-guard while Gough and Serna collided in pursuit of the ball. The French referee awarded a spot-kick to the considerable dismay of the Scots.

Giannini sent the ball low to Gormon's right, but because three of his team-mates had

intruded into the area, he was obliged to repeat the process, this time directing his kick to the left of the goalkeeper.

Although the Scots continued to apply themselves to the job in hand, their impotence in midfield was distressingly obvious, and it was no surprise when McStay was replaced by McClair 10 minutes into the second half.

The Manchester United player injected a degree of vigour and direction into the Scots' efforts, but the match finally drifted beyond their grasp with 20 minutes left to play.

This time the architect was Barresi, with a cross which allowed Crippa a powerful header. Gormon did well to deflect the attempt high into the air, but he could then do nothing to prevent Berti from heading the rebound into the top corner for a goal which effectively ended the contest in disappointing fashion for Scotland.

After the match Roxburgh said: "I was disappointed at the way the breakthrough was achieved by Italy. It came at a stage when we were settling into the game. The defeat was not down to our system but rather to flaws in individual performances and the quality of our passing."

SCOTLAND: A Gormon (Stirling); B. Serna (Perugia); C. Maldini (Perugia); D. Senigaglia (Perugia); E. Giannini (Perugia); F. Bergomi (Perugia); G. Aitken (Perugia); H. Johnston (Perugia); I. McClair (Perugia); J. Gallacher (Perugia); K. Ferguson (Perugia); L. McStay (Perugia); M. MacLeod (Perugia); N. MacKenzie (Perugia); O. MacKenzie (Perugia); P. MacKenzie (Perugia); Q. MacKenzie (Perugia); R. MacKenzie (Perugia); S. MacKenzie (Perugia); T. MacKenzie (Perugia); U. MacKenzie (Perugia); V. MacKenzie (Perugia); W. MacKenzie (Perugia); X. MacKenzie (Perugia); Y. MacKenzie (Perugia); Z. MacKenzie (Perugia); AA. MacKenzie (Perugia); AB. MacKenzie (Perugia); AC. MacKenzie (Perugia); AD. MacKenzie (Perugia); AE. MacKenzie (Perugia); AF. MacKenzie (Perugia); AG. MacKenzie (Perugia); AH. MacKenzie (Perugia); AI. MacKenzie (Perugia); AJ. MacKenzie (Perugia); AK. MacKenzie (Perugia); AL. MacKenzie (Perugia); AM. MacKenzie (Perugia); AN. MacKenzie (Perugia); AO. MacKenzie (Perugia); AP. 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Penalty point: Serna looks up hopefully as he fails to the ground after colliding with Gough at the start of the second half

## Millwall refuse ticket offer

Millwall's supporters, whose riot at Luton four years ago led to the Kenilworth Road club's ban on away supporters, will not be going back there in this season's FA Cup. Millwall said that if their home third round tie with Luton on January 7 was drawn, they would not accept tickets for the replay. Instead, the game would be shown live on close circuit television at The Den.

Luton had been prepared to allocate 2,500 tickets to Millwall. After discussions with Luton and the FA, Millwall declined the allocation on the grounds that it would not be big enough to accommodate the supporters who would want to travel.

Millwall's last visit to Luton, for a midweek FA Cup quarter-final replay in 1985, ended with supporters invading the pitch. They were only cleared after a battle with police.

It led to Luton introducing their 100 per cent membership scheme, still the only one in the country, which keeps visiting supporters out for first division matches although not for cup ties.

The Luton chairman, David Evans, said: "We don't think there will be a replay because we intend to win. But we appreciate what Millwall have done."

John Smith, the Luton chief executive, said: "Our two clubs have a very friendly relationship now - both are very different from what they were at the time of the 1985 trouble."

"We applaud what Millwall have done to rid themselves of their previous reputation and we think that this is a typical example of the responsibility they show to the game."

The Millwall manager, John Docherty, has called his first team squad in for two extra days of training this week after the defeat by Luton in the Simod Cup on Tuesday.

David Capper, the assistant secretary at Stoke City, has been appointed secretary at Blackpool following the resignation of David Johnson, who is starting his own business.

Martin Hodge, the Leicester City goalkeeper, will be discharged from hospital tomorrow after having an operation to cure the stomach muscle injury he suffered on the opening day of the season.

Hodge, aged 29, who joined Leicester for £200,000 from Sheffield Wednesday, has not played for the first team since that first match - against West Bromwich Albion. He is expected to be out of action for another eight weeks.

Several leading managers, including Graeme Souness (Rangers), Terry Venables (Spurs), and Brian Clough, of Nottingham Forest, have watched him this season and been impressed with his influential range of skills.

Leicester are known to value McAlister, who turns 24 on Christmas Day, in the year-end figure bracket but Peat is not anxious to sell as he patiently builds a side with promotion potential.

With long-term aims for the club in mind he was encouraged to hear his valuable player's philosophy as interested clubs ponder a possible new year deal.

The present I would like most of all would be six points from our two holiday fixtures," he stressed.

He added: "When I was a youngster I used to get double gifts under the Christmas tree. That's what I want now, two home wins."

Leicester play Bournemouth on Boxing Day and Blackburn on New Year's Eve, two games which could vastly boost Leicester's promotion potential.

"If we could put together a run like last year when we lost only four games out of 20 after David Peat became manager we would be in with a real chance. West Bromwich Albion have shown what can be achieved."

This club is waking up again. I'm well aware of all the talk about various clubs being interested in me but I know nothing about any definite offers and I'm perfectly happy to keep on working away at trying to win promotion."

## MPs have time to ponder membership card scheme

By John Goodbody

THIS SEASON'S TROUBLESPOTS

Members of Parliament, who left Westminster last night for the Christmas recess, will spend some of their holiday digesting a raft of information on the Bill for the national membership scheme, which will oblige football spectators attending League matches from the spring of 1990 to have identity cards.

The controversy over the Bill, to be introduced to the House of Lords in the middle of January, will escalate further when it reaches the House of Commons with the opposition parties and some Conservative MPs, opposed to the Prime Minister's plan to help stamp out football hooliganism.

Both Colin Mays, the Minister for Sport, and Tom Fendley, the Labour MP for South Yorkshire and Hyde and chairman of the All-Party Football Committee, have sent circulars to MPs with their conflicting arguments on the scheme.

The Government is determined to introduce identity cards, bearing the holder's photograph, because of the continuing hooliganism in England, which is only contained because of the concentration of police resources, costing the taxpayer an estimated £30 million a year.

Mr Fendley, who has been set up by the Prime Minister after the violence at the European championship in West Germany, stating that the costs of the scheme would be met by football itself.

He stresses that a leading card operator believes that there are opportunities for the commercial development of the scheme, which could lead to income for football rather than a cost as clubs or supporters.

Endry points out that the violence in football should be placed in the context of society as a whole. He states there were 6,147 arrests at football matches last season, or 0.03 per cent of the 18 million supporters who attended games, compared to the

1.3 million arrests in Britain in 1987, a higher rate of 3.9 per cent of the adult population.

He thinks that even a delay of three seconds for each individual at the turnstiles will create massive problems at the gates and that more police officers, and not fewer, will be needed.

Fendley wants the courts to impose exclusion orders from grounds for more frequently than at present, stating that the 6,147 arrests last season this option was only taken up on 1,089 occasions.

The British Transport police have recorded a further 322 incidents involving football-related offences.

The Minister denies that the scheme will lead to bankruptcies among smaller League clubs, suggesting that the turnstiles as spectators have their own cash checked and that the violence will be transferred from inside the grounds to the surrounding areas.

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END COLUMN

# Trust makes approach to take over Tote

By Graham Rock

The Jockey Club and the Racecourse Association (RCA) have made direct approaches to the Tote to take over its operation in return for £10 million in cash and a further £10 million in low-interest loans, to be repaid over 10 years.

The Times learnt yesterday that a committee chaired by John Henderson, a Jockey Club member and the Cheltenham racecourse chairman, is proposing the creation of a British Racing Trust, which would be run by a board of eight trustees, including an independent chairman.

It is suggested that the Jockey Club, the RCA and the



RACING AND THE BOOKMAKERS

Racecourse Owners' Association (ROA) would have two representatives each, and Lord Wyatt, the present chairman of the Tote, would also be a trustee "since we believe that a full understanding of the Tote's aims and activities will enable the trustees to carry out their tasks better," the committee says in its report.

With no ultimate control over Levy Board funds and

having watched the racecourses award the satellite broadcasting contract to a bookmaker-inspired company, the Jockey Club might have felt it was being driven towards an initiative of its own to procure a stake in the Tote, and at least a minor share of the nation's £3.1 billion annual betting turnover.

In September, the Home Office asked Lloyds Merchant Bank to undertake a feasibility study on the privatization of the Tote, and the team is expected to report early in 1989.

Representatives of Lloyds have been collecting evidence, interviewing interested parties and attending race meetings, but the move to set up a British

Racing Trust seems to have been a Jockey Club initiative. The Tote is owned by no one. It was founded in 1928 and three years later Tote Investors Limited (TIL) was set up to channel off-course bets to the Tote on the racecourses, in return for a commission.

In 1962, the Tote acquired TIL and set up betting offices in the high street, but it needed an Act of Parliament in 1972 to allow it to offer starting prices and compete with its bookmaking rivals. The Tote board is appointed by the Home Office, although the organization has never received financial support from the Government.

The Henderson committee

suggests: "If there was a possibility of control over the Tote passing to 'outside' shareholders, the very future of pool betting would be put at risk to the detriment of Britain's 59 racecourses, currently in receipt of £3 million per annum from the Tote."

"It is our belief that any scheme involving outside equity investment should be rejected. The inevitable conflict of interests between the demands of racing and those of outside shareholders would be difficult to reconcile."

The proposal has the backing of the HAC, which will come as a surprise to the rank-and-file of the industry. The composition of the proposed board of trustees inevitably

will be regarded as elitist, and cannot be said to represent the industry.

The Jockey Club has no jurisdiction over matters of betting and has never expressed a wish to enjoy that power. The privatization of the Tote may have been regarded by them as being their final opportunity to utilize funds provided by betting.

However, giving two places on the board to racehorse owners is provocative, not least to the largest section of the industry, the punters, who have only one voice on the HAC.

Initiative should always be praised, but the offer to set up a British Racing Trust on the terms outlined is unlikely to

impress the Lloyds Bank assessors. If privatization was sought as a means to finance future expansion, the Tote would require a considerably larger injection of capital, up to, perhaps, £50 million to make the exercise worthwhile.

It is capable of raising smaller sums of capital on the strength of its 125 high street betting shops, which have an estimated value of up to £70 million.

The racecourses, which provide the facility for Tote betting, should be capable of raising substantial funding through the extra £6 million a year they are receiving from Satellite Information Services.

More racing, page 29

## Italian's gain is Bailey's loss

By Andrew Longmore

It was announced yesterday that Michele Alboreto, the Italian Formula One driver, has rejoined the Tyrrell Racing Organization for next year's grand prix season. His first drive for Tyrrell in 1988: The annual shuffle of the drivers pack is nearly over and, for once, the British have had a fair deal. Johnny Herbert to Benetton, Martin Brundle to Brabham, Nigel Mansell to Ferrari and Jonathan Palmer and Derek Warwick staying with Tyrrell and Arrows respectively.

When the action starts in Rio at the end of March, the British will have as strong a hand as they have had for nearly a decade. But the cards have not fallen so kindly for another British driver; after one dismal season at the bottom end of the pit road, Julian Bailey must feel as if he has been mugged and left for dead.

A year ago, Bailey sold his pub in Herefordshire, sold the piggy banks of his main sponsors, Brabham and Cavendish Finance, and came up with the half million pounds necessary to get a drive with the Tyrrell team. Of that, £280,000 was his own and his brother's money. Bailey was in Formula One and that was that.

### He knew that he would not win

When I spoke to him then, he was trying hard to be realistic. He knew he was not going to win races, but if he could be competitive, show off his ability to the right people... and what happened? He more often than not failed to qualify and it was announced yesterday that he had been replaced by Alboreto. He says he earned nothing from his season in Formula One.

Typically, because he has never had anything given to him in his life, Bailey is not musing about his misfortune. But when a grand prix car costs £3 million in development, parts and labour, when top teams are spending over £30 million a season and mid-grid outfits £5-£10 million, the accountants rule. Very few teams can afford the luxury of picking their drivers on talent alone. And Alboreto could bring more sponsorship to the Tyrrell team.

Bailey understands such logic—at least a lot better than he did a year ago. But he must reflect that few sports can match Formula One motor racing for the feasibility of its pay structure. The difference is in income between the front and the back of a grand prix grid is close to £3 million. In last season's league table, the last champion, Ayrton Senna, was reportedly paid £2.7 million by McLaren-Honda. Prost £2 million, Berger £1.9 million, Mansell, £1.8 million—rising to £3 million with Ferrari in 1989, Alboreto, £1.3 million, Boutsen, £600,000, Nazari, £400,000.

At the bottom of the table came the novices, the first-timers, who maybe got a few expenses when everyone else had been paid. Or maybe not.

### Not much is heard of young drivers

Not that much is heard about the less ritzy end of the Formula One street where young drivers with suitcases full of money battle for vacancies up and down the pit lanes. At Monza this season, the Mexican, Joselo Garcia, was doing the rounds. The first question, he said, was always the same: how much money do you have?

"The team managers kept putting up the prices. First they wanted half-a-million pounds then they wanted one million pounds," he said. Few drivers break out of that bring-and-buy stranglehold.

So where does all this leave one partly used grand prix driver? Roughly back where he was 12 months ago, looking for money, looking for a drive. Except that Bailey is now a year wiser and, after a season spent trying to get onto the last row of the grid, a year tougher. That experience alone will enable him to earn good money outside Formula One. But Bailey is still hopeful of hijacking one of the remaining seats in Formula One, possibly with the First team.

After all, there is still a fortune to be won if you race up the grand prix grid. "It's high risk investment," admits Bailey, "but I'd make the same decision now as I would have done 12 months ago." Has anyone out there got £1 million to spare?

## Tour scrapped and England cricket isolated

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

The fabric of international cricket, as it has survived for generations, was dealt further grievous damage yesterday as New Zealand, reluctantly but inevitably, called off the scheduled spring tour by England.

What they were saying, beneath the bald regret of their statement, is that they could neither afford to foot the bill for a financially doomed programme nor take the risk of political activists sabotaging the tour and threatening the country's future in other sporting fields. England, in consequence, slipped deeper into isolation.

From Lord's yesterday there was "disappointment but not surprise." Privately, officers of the Test and County Cricket Board have been resigned to abandonment since Pakistan's late change of heart, last week, over the proposed triangular limited overs series.

Now, at long last, there is also a sensible acceptance that no good can come from the demeaning pursuit of any further substitute trips. Alan Smith, chief executive of the Board, confirms that it is no longer thought practical for

the tour party to travel elsewhere, even if it proved possible. For that, at least, we should be grateful.

The news that this is now officially a winter off, on par with the winter of 1987, was greeted with mixed feelings by the England captain, Graham Gooch. He said: "It is disappointing, especially for those who would have been going on their first tour. At least one of those, John Childs, has come to Test cricket late and he knows he may not have many more chances to tour."

"On the other hand, I must say I feel a sense of relief, simply because we now know what we are doing. The un-



Gooch: mixed feelings

certainty has dragged on for months, with first the Indian tour being in question and now this one."

Gooch's South African contacts, and those of half the other chosen players, have been central to the chaos of this winter. They will also be central to the looming debate on South Africa at next month's critical meeting of the International Cricket Conference.

Like every other English player, Gooch is still hoping for a solution to the issue which would allow the resumption of full Test relations without restricting the off-season movement of cricketers.

"Officially, under all cricketing agreements, we are all bona fide players now, yet still we have countries who won't entertain us because their Governments won't allow it. Some attitudes are bound to harden over what has happened this winter."

"Even if there is a sensible compromise at the ICC meeting, what is to stop the same thing happening in the future? It is a very worrying time for all players, especially the youngsters."

## Christie asked to Olympic inquiry

By John Goodbody

Linford Christie, who was at the centre of a drug controversy at the Olympic Games, has been asked to attend an inquiry into incidents in Seoul being held next month by the British Olympic Association.

Christie, whose urine contained a small quantity of pseudo-ephedrine, a stimulant, after he finished fourth in the 200 metres, was completely cleared by the International Olympic Committee following his explanation that he had inadvertently taken the herb in Korean ginseng, the herbal tea.

Christie, the winner of two silver medals in Seoul, the modern pentathletes, Richard Phelps and Dominic Mahony, and Kerrith Brown, the judo fighter, have been asked to attend the meeting.

Phelps and Mahony were both exonerated of taking an

unspecified substance. Brown was stripped of his lightweight bronze medal after being positive for furosemide, a diuretic. A BOA spokeswoman said: "None of the competitors are under any obligation to attend. We will not be taking over old costs. We want to look forward to discover the views of the competitors and officials on how the drugs question should be approached in future."

The committee will be headed by Sir Arthur Gold, chairman of the association. Roy Evans, a past president of the International Table Tennis Federation, and Dr Neil Townshend, a former huge competitor and team doctor at the Winter Olympics.

The committee will have two meetings, one to establish its terms of reference and the second to interview doctors, officials and competitors.

## Crellin to contest fine by RL

By Keith Macklin

Jim Crellin, the coach of the second division club, Rochdale Hornets, yesterday said he would defy the Rugby League and refuse to pay a £250 fine for publicly commenting about the referee in the Workington Town v Hornets match.

Crellin said: "I have always been an advocate of fair play, and I have strong principles. No way will I pay the fine."

"The League held a kangaroo court by not inviting me to speak in my own defence. I will seek legal advice and take the League to the High Court if necessary."

"Other coaches have abused referees and spoken out publicly this season without punishment."

"A warning should have been given before the new code of conduct was imposed." Gag on criticism, page 30

## Higgins plays under new management

By Steve Acteson

Alex Higgins, snooker's most troublesome player, was yesterday "transferred" from Brighton to Glasgow. World champion in 1972 and 1982, the "Hurricane" has been signed for £75,000, by a new sporting management venture headed by the former Celtic manager and Scottish international footballer, David Hay.

Higgins thus leaves Howard Kruger's Brighton-based Framework snooker team, with only two months of his contract still to run. Kruger having failed to fulfil the pledge he made when signing Higgins in 1986 when he said: "We are going to clean up Alex's act."

One of his first roles as manager of the game's most flamboyant player was to see Higgins banned for five tour-

naments and fined £12,000 for head-butting a senior official of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association. The relationship has never truly prospered and at the beginning of this season, Kruger shunted Higgins aside into a private management arrangement.

The Belfast-born Higgins, aged 39, reached the final of the Rothmans Grand Prix in October, losing to Steve Davis, but his off-table activities have kept him more in the public eye in recent years and last week he was involved in litigation over maintenance arrears and tax arrears. This week he was bound over in the sum of £300 by magistrates in Manchester to keep the peace after an altercation with his girlfriend.

## Police question Webbe

The Welsh rugby international, Glyn Webbe, has been questioned by police about an alleged assault. Police are making inquiries into an incident following a burglary at the Bridgend wing's home in Cardiff. Webbe, aged 26, was inter-

viewed by police last night and released without being charged, but is expected to face further questioning next week.

Webbe has won 10 caps for Wales but was ruled out of next month's training trip to Spain because of injury.

## Defender avoids ban on sixth disrepute charge

### Spitting costs Dennis £1,000

By Dennis Signy

Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers defender, was fined £1,000 yesterday by a Football Association disciplinary commission but he escaped a further suspension when he faced his sixth charge of bringing the game into disrepute.

After a three-hour hearing at Lancaster Gate to consider the conflicting evidence of how Dennis came to be sent off in a reserve team match against Fulham on December 6, the fine was announced by Graham Kelly, the chief executive designate of the FA.

He said: "From the evidence adduced, the members of the commission are satisfied that Mark Dennis is guilty of misconduct and they imposed a fine of £1,000 and an order for him to pay the cost of the hearing."

The commission — Jack Hayward (Essex FA), Bill Fox, the chairman of Blackburn Rovers, and Leslie Kew (Bristol City) — decided against an additional suspension for Dennis on top of the automatic three-match ban he is serving.

Dennis, who asked for a personal hearing, has 14 days to appeal against the fine from the date of the letter of confirmation from the FA.

The referee, Colin Peake, sent Dennis off for the twelfth time in his 10-year career for spitting at Leo Donnellan, who was also sent off for retaliation.

Kelly said the charge of disrepute was brought "because the FA feels this particular offence is unsavoury and every effort must be made to stamp it out. This is a warning to players not to indulge in that particular offence. Only time will tell if it succeeds."

Questioned about the case of Paul Miller, who was not brought before the FA after he had been sent off when playing for Charlton Athletic, Kelly said the club took action and the disciplinary com-



Staying silent: Dennis is hustled away from Lancaster Gate after the hearing yesterday

mittee decided not to proceed. Dennis was subsequently transferred to Watford.

Dennis, who was represented by Peter Ellis, a QPR director, was hurried away in a taxi with Fred Luff, a security adviser at the club, at his side to prevent him commenting.

Ellis, who was 10 yards away on the touchline when Dennis was sent off, repeatedly said "no comment" as he Tony Ingham, a fellow director, left in another taxi.

Ray Lewington, the Fulham player-manager, accompanied Donnellan to Lancaster Gate. He said that they had enjoyed a fair hearing. The referee would not comment.

Dennis was also accompanied by Peter Shreeves, the Rangers assistant manager, who was at the reserve match. Although there were no reactions from any side, the feeling must be that Dennis has escaped relatively lightly considering his record of 12 dismissals and 68 cautions.

## Sansom move is imminent

By Ian Ross

Kenny Sansom, Arsenal's former England international, will leave the north-east last night hoping to finalize a move to Newcastle United. A deal is expected to be completed in time for the experienced defender to make his debut in the game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Boxing Day.

Although the two clubs had reached a provisional agreement late on Wednesday, the transfer was placed in some jeopardy yesterday after a disagreement over the size of the transfer fee.

The problem was resolved after a series of discussions between Jim Smith, the Newcastle manager, and George Graham, his Arsenal counterpart. Sansom, aged 30, is now expected to move to St James' Park for a fee of around £300,000.

The transfer will bring to an end a period of immense personal disappointment for Sansom, who has not played a senior game all season. Sansom, who has won 86 full international caps, demanded in March that Graham publicly declare whether or not he still had a future at Highbury. His outburst was construed by Graham as being not only petulant, but disloyal.

he was stripped of the club captaincy. Sansom asked to be placed on the transfer-list during the close season, and upon his return from the European championship finals in West Germany last summer, discovered that he had lost his regular left back berth to Nigel Winterburn.

Newcastle yesterday completed the signing of Ray Sansom, a right back, from Birmingham City for a fee of £140,000.

Norwich City last night completed the signing of the Oldham Athletic defender, Mike Flynn, for £100,000.

### SPORT IN BRIEF

#### Richards recovers

Leicester have included Dean Richards, the England No. 8, in their side to play the Barbarians in the annual Christmas match next Wednesday.

#### Centre game

Simon Halliday, the England centre, has started training again with Bath, six weeks after damaging knee ligaments at Moseley. He will play in the game with Northampton on New Year's Eve.

#### Lloyds agrees

Jeremy Lloyds, the Gloucestershire all-rounder, has accepted a further two-year contract with the club. Philip August, the Gloucestershire secretary, said he is also optimistic that the departed captain, David Graventy, will agree to stay with the club.

#### \$6 m contract

Brussels (AP) — Domyi International SA, the Belgian tennis racket maker, yesterday signed Andre Agassi, of the United States, on a five-year, \$6 million contract in a bid to revive its flagging fortunes.

#### Home tie

Barrow Island have been given permission by the Rugby League to use their own ground for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup first round tie against fellow amateurs, Thatch Heath, on January 29.

## Back ends season for Anderson

The troubled season of Viv Anderson, the Manchester United defender, ended last night (Ian Ross writes). Anderson, who has made only one full senior appearance in the past six months, has had a back operation to remove a damaged disc and will not be able to resume training until May at the earliest.

Earlier this week Anderson was fined £750 and suspended for one game after a Football Association disciplinary inquiry found him to be guilty of bringing the game into disrepute in an incident involving John Fashanu, the Wimbledon forward, after a Littlewoods Cup match at Plough Lane last month.

Anderson still faces a second disrepute charge, over allegations he made in his autobiography.

"We had been hoping that Viv would be able to commence light training in the not too distant future, but after seeing a specialist it was decided that an operation was needed. It is obviously bitterly disappointing news, both for the club and for the player himself," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said.

United also have their second-choice goalkeeper, Gary Walsh, out of action for at least two months with a stress fracture of his right foot.

Steve MacMahon, the Liverpool midfielder, has been breathalysed after a car crash. He was tested after his car hit a wall in Scarisbrick, Lancashire, early on Tuesday morning. MacMahon was not injured.



## A prize question of sport

Tomorrow The Times features the Christmas sports jumbo crossword, with exciting prizes from Whitbread. Plus our selection of the Quotes of the Year from the world of sport. Plus an extract from Benny Green's new book, A History of Cricket. On Monday The Times presents the full guide to all eight race meetings, with an exclusive betting offer from William Hill. Plus a special preview of the Boxing Day football and rugby.